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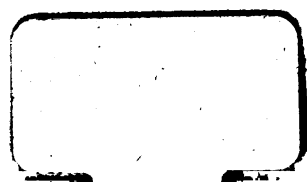
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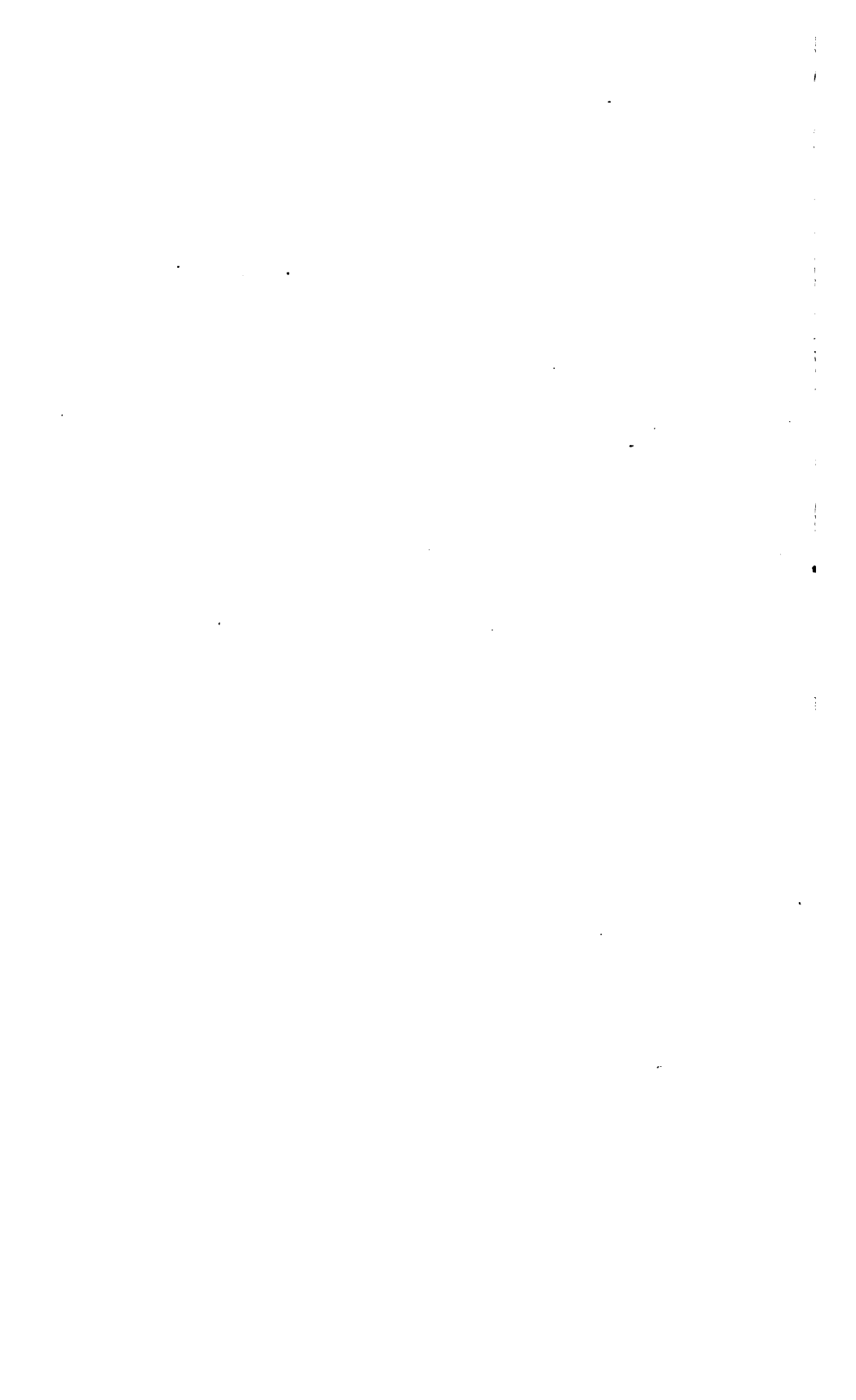
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# **HISTORICAL PARTICULARS**

RELATING TO

## **SOUTHAMPTON.**

COLLECTED

BY JOHN BULLAR.

SOUTHAMPTON:

PRINTED BY AND FOR T. BAKER,

AND PUBLISHED BY HIM FINSBURY PLACE, LONDON;

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

THE few particulars which are presented to the public in the following pages, were collected at intervals, in the course of reading, many years ago. They were seen by the late ARTHUR HAMMOND, Esq. who urged the compiler of them to undertake a history of his native place; offering to use his influence with the Corporation, to obtain access to the sources of information in their archives. Want of leisure prevented him from availing himself of so liberal and important an offer; and the same cause

*L. H. & J. H. 27 Aug. 1891*

is likely to continue to operate. His friend Mr. THOMAS BAKER, however, unwilling that the few collections which he had made, should be altogether lost, undertook to publish them. In this imperfect form, they bespeak the candour of the public: to which they are committed, with a hope that the publication of them may stimulate some able person to take up a subject, which might be made, it is probable, both instructive and entertaining.

# HISTORICAL PARTICULARS

RELATING TO

## SOUTHAMPTON.

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**V**ARIOUS conjectures have been formed respecting the etymology of the name Southampton. Some have derived it simply from the Saxon words *ham*, a house, and *tun*, or *ton*, a town; the word *south* having been prefixed since the Norman conquest, to distinguish it from other towns of similar name. Others contend for its derivation from the Anton or Southampton Water, on the pleasant margin of which it is situated.\*

Little authentic information can now be

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\* See on this subject Sir H. Englefield's "Walk through Southampton," p. 2—5. In the earliest charter, (Henry the Second's,) the town is called *Hanton*: in later charters, *Sudhanton*, *Suhampton*, and *Suthampton*. This speaks strongly for Sir H. Englefield's etymology.

gained, as to the origin and earliest state of the town. Some fanciful authors, indeed, are inclined to give it an antiquity of four or five ages prior to the Christian era.\* But it would be impertinent to detain the reader with fables that can be considered as of no better authority than *Amadis de Gaul*, or the *Seven Champions of Christendom*. It has been well observed by an intelligent historian, "That there can be nothing more uncertain, more obscure, or of which we are more ignorant, than the transactions which took place in this country during the British ages; that is, before the arrival of the Romans here."†

There is no authority for imagining that Southampton existed during the government of the Romans in Britain: no traces of the masonry of that people have ever been discovered, nor any of their coins found in it. The notion that the ancient station *Clausentum* occupied this spot, has been fully proved to be erroneous, both by

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\* Geoffrey of Monmouth; Ross of Warwick.

† Polydore Virgil.

the arguments of the Rev. Richard Warner,\* and by the discoveries which have been made at Bittern, on the northern bank of the Itchen, where the Roman Clausentum was undoubtedly situated.

The recorded history of Southampton does not commence till the ninth century; and the first accounts are very disastrous. The fierce and sanguinary Danes, who infested the English coasts without intermission for almost two centuries, made repeated descents on old Hampton, and more than once left traces of their fury in fire and blood. In the year 838, during the reign of Ethelwolf, they landed from a fleet of thirty-three galleys, and committed sad depredations and atrocities on the town and its inhabitants. Wolphard, the governor of the county, however, collected a body of forces, and marched to the spot; where, in a bloody engagement, he defeated the invaders, and drove them to their ships.†

About the year 860, in the reign of Ethelbert,

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\* In a work entitled "An Attempt to ascertain the Situation of the ancient Clausentum," 4to. 1792.

† Saxon Chronicle, p. 73. Leland's Collectanea, i. 192.

the Danes again landed at Southampton, and, advancing into the county, made themselves masters of Winchester, where they committed horrid and lamentable excesses. But having collected a great booty in that place, then the richest city in the kingdom, they were conveying it in haste to their ships, which seem to have lain at Southampton, when Osric earl of Southampton, and Ethelwulph earl of Berkshire, improving this opportunity, attacked them in the road, and routed them with great slaughter, recovering all the spoils.\*

At the synod of Graetly, held under Athelstan in 928, Hampton was one of the towns in which *two* mints were established. A few places excepted, each of the other principal towns of the kingdom had only *one*. If any person belonging to these mints was found guilty of debasing the coin, (which was all to be of one sort,) his right hand was to be cut off, and nailed on the outside of the mint. Such as were charged with this crime on suspicion, might be allowed to prove

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\* Sax. Chron.; William of Malmesbury; Milner's History of Winchester, i. 123.



their innocence by the ordeal, taking in their hand a red-hot iron.\*

The sloth and pusillanimity of Ethelred, appropriately surnamed the Unready, gave the Danes a fair opportunity of ravaging his kingdom with impunity. About the year 981, they landed from seven great ships at Southampton, and committed their usual enormities. Scarcely twelve years elapsed, before they were again seen at the same spot, repeating their cruelties and devastations, headed by Sueno king of Denmark, and Olaus king of Norway. In this expedition, they did not adhere to their ordinary plan of confining themselves to the sea-coast; but, imboldened by the inactivity of the king, they seized on all the horses that they could find, and carried the terror of their arms into the more inland counties. The distress and danger of the English now became excessive; but the weakness of Ethelred could adopt no other means for lessening them than that of bribery. A reward of £16,000 was promised to the two leaders, on

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\* Spelman's Concilia, i. 399.

condition of their returning peaceably to the north. The terms were accepted, and they sat down quietly at Southampton until the money was paid; when they fulfilled their contract: and Olaus, keeping his promise, returned to England no more.\*

The exertions of Edmund Ironside were insufficient to deprive the Danes of that footing which the imbecility of his predecessor had suffered them to acquire in England; and, after repeated contests, he was under the necessity of yielding half his kingdom to their leader Canute.

In the year 1106, after the death of Ethelred II. in the contest between Edmund Ironside and Canute for the crown of England, the bishops, abbots, and many of the English nobles, assembling at Southampton, abjured the race of Ethelred, chose Canute for their king, and swore fealty to him: who also swore to them, to be their faithful lord in matters civil and ecclesiastical.†

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\* Saxon Chronicle.

† Simon Dunelmensis, apud Rapin, i. 123.

The well-known reproof of Canute to his parasites, is said to have taken place at Southampton. The greatest and most powerful monarch of his time, sovereign of Denmark and Norway, as well as of England, he could not fail of meeting with adulation from his courtiers; a tribute which is liberally paid even to the meanest and weakest princes. Some of his courtiers, it is said, carried their adulation so far, as to declare, in his presence, that nothing in nature dared to disobey his commands: upon which, the monarch ordered his chair to be placed on the sea-shore at Southampton, while the tide was rising; and, as the waters approached, he commanded them to retire, and to obey the voice of him who was the lord of the ocean. He feigned to sit some time in expectation of their submission; but, when the sea still advanced towards him, and began to wash him with its billows, he turned to his courtiers, and remarked to them, that every creature in the universe is feeble and impotent, and that power resides with one Being alone, in whose hands are all the elements of nature; who can say to the ocean, "Thus far

shalt thou go, and no farther;" and who can level in a moment the most towering piles of human pride and ambition: a truth sufficiently obvious, but not much inculcated by monarchs in the circle of their flatterers.\*

When William the Conqueror made his famous national survey, the particulars of which are preserved in Domesday-book, it appears that the town of Southampton contained seventy-nine men in demesne. The minute is to the following effect.

"In the borough of Hantune the king has seventy-nine men in demesne, who pay a land-tax of seven pounds, and also paid the same sum in the time of king Edward the Confessor: twenty-seven of whom pay eight pence each; two of them pay twelve pence each; and the remaining fifty pay six pence each."†

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\* Higden, p. 276; Hume, vol. i.; Henry, book ii. ch. 1.—In Sir H. Englefield's "Walk through Southampton," an attempt has been made to fix the scene of this well-known anecdote on a spot near the newest part of the Quay. See page 104 of that work.

† Warner's Hampshire, extracted from Domesday-book.

This extract proves that Hampton had been a burgh, and consequently a place of some trade and importance, in the Anglo-Saxon times. Burghs were then the residence of such persons as traded under the liberty and protection given by the king, or some of the great lords; not as being in any merchant's guild, society, or community.

From the charter of convention by which king Stephen declared Henry duke of Normandy his successor, we learn that Southampton was at that time fortified.\*

The incorporation of the town by charter took place in the reign of Henry II.; and confirmations were granted by Richard I., John, Edward II. and III., and Henry IV. V. and VI.

In 1174, Henry II. with his queen and his son Henry's wife, embarking at Barfleur, landed at Southampton on their return from France. "On the 8th of July, very early in the morning, the wind being fair, he set sail; but the gale

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\* The expression is, "Munitionem Hamptoniæ."—Lyttelton's History of Henry II. vi. 503.

increasing, and the sea beginning to grow rough, he observed in the countenances of the mariners some doubt of the safety of the voyage: whereupon, lifting up his eyes to heaven, he said, ‘ If the Supreme Ruler designs, by my arrival in England, to restore to my people that peace, which he knows I sincerely have at heart, may he mercifully bring me to a safe port; but, if his will has decreed to scourge the realm, may I never be permitted to reach its shore!’ These sentiments, so becoming a Christian and a king, which his subsequent actions proved to have been sincere, were not unrewarded: he arrived on the same evening, without the loss of a ship, in the harbour of Southampton:\* his son and the earl of Flanders lying at Gravelines wind-bound, or deterred from sailing, if they had the same wind as he, by the violence of it, and the roughness of the sea in that part of the Channel.”

Immediately afterward took place, at Canterbury, that disgraceful scene of his penance at the tomb of Becket, “ which was either an act of

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\* Records in the Tower of London.

the most odious hypocrisy, or of the most contemptible superstition.”—“ If,” observes the noble historian of his reign, “ the report of Becket’s miracles, or the authority of Rome in his canonization, did really work such a change in Henry’s mind, as to make him now deem that prelate, with whose whole conduct he had been so well acquainted, a saint and a martyr, it is a most wonderful instance of the prevalence of bigotry over human reason: but if he continued to think of the man and the cause as he had hitherto thought, this pilgrimage to his tomb, these prostrations before it, these acts of worship paid to him, were an impious hypocrisy and mockery of God, which no policy could excuse.” \*

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\* Lord Lyttelton’s History of Henry II. vol. v. p. 184. The fame of that outrageous incendiary, St. Thomas Becket, spread far and wide. Two volumes were filled with accounts of the miracles that were performed by his intercession. Not only diseases of all kinds were fabled to have been healed by the invocation of his name; but members cut off, and eyes pulled out, were restored, and the dead were raised to life: this was even extended to the revivifying of dead birds and other animals. At his altar, in Canterbury cathedral, in one year, were offered £954, while, at the altar dedicated to Christ, not a single far-

In April, 1186, Henry II. again landed at Southampton, on his return from France. He also brought with him Eleanor, his queen, whom, soon afterward, he a second time confined in prison; from which she was not delivered till after his death, when Richard, her son, set her free. What occasioned this change in her husband's treatment of her, the very imperfect accounts of this part of his life, have given us no intimation. Probably, therefore, her offence was not of a political, but of a private, nature; some secret which the writers of those times could not penetrate, or were afraid to report.\*

John, immediately on his coming to the throne, gave the farm of the customs of Southampton, together with those of the port of Ports-

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thing was devoted!—Lyttelton, v. 321, and vi. 368. Forty-eight years after his decease, a controversy was started among the doctors of the Sorbonne, whether he was saved or damned; and, in the reign of Henry VIII. he was *cited to appear in court*, and tried and condemned as a traitor.—Granger's Biog. Hist. of Eng. i. 43.

\* Lyttelton's History of England, vi. 236 and 378.



mouth, to the burgesses of this town, in consideration of an annual payment, into the exchequer, of £200 sterling.

Tradition says, that king John was some time a resident in the town. A piece of water, still called king John's Pond, near the shore, on the side of the old road from Southampton to the west of England, is said to have been the place where his horses were led to water. It is very probable that he occasionally visited this town; since, in the course of his turbulent reign, he resided frequently at Winchester, and once remained three months in the isle of Wight, expecting succours from the Pope, against the barons. There, cautiously concealing his designs, he conversed chiefly with fishermen and sailors, and spent much of his time in sauntering on the shore with his domestics: a retreat which caused much speculation and many jests; some saying that the king was become a fisherman, and others, that he designed to turn pirate.\*

Under the auspices of its charters, and aided

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\* Matthew of Paris, 265.

by many local privileges and immunities, Southampton soon began to increase in opulence and consideration. A brisk wine trade was carried on between it and the coast of France: so that, in 1215, the merchants of this place appear to have been, next to those of London, the greatest importers of wine in England.\* Many excellent vaulted cellars, in the lower part of the town, still remain to attest its ancient trade. The stannaries† were removed hither: and general commerce, the certain harbinger of wealth, began to unfold its advantages to the inhabitants. In the tenth of Richard I. the port revenue amounted to £40 5s. 8d.; and in the seventeenth year of his successor, the *computus*, or sum to be accounted for, was the usual *redditus*, or revenue,

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\* The prices of wine about this period will amuse the reader. A few years before, king John ordered, that wine of Poitou should not be sold in England for above 20s. a tun; wine of Anjou, 24s.; French wine, 25s.; yet by retail red wine was allowed to be sold for 6d. a quart, and white, 8d. In this reign, the highest price of bread appears to have been a farthing a pound.

† Courts which held plea of action of debt or trespass on the subject of tin: so named from the Latin name of tin, *stannum*.

of £200; eleemosynary donations to certain monks, £9 5s.; and for fifty-eight tuns of French, Gascon, and Anjou wines, and for two tuns of Spanish or Portuguese, £50 and one mark.

It is said that the town anciently enjoyed the privilege of being the only port where Canary wine might be landed; but that the corporation of London, finding it often inconvenient to have the wines detained, purchased this privilege of the corporation of Southampton for a considerable sum.

The jurisdiction of Southampton port was so extensive, that its burgesses were liable to impositions from the artifices of the neighbouring maritime towns; which sometimes took advantage of their distance from this place, to exact payments from shipping, to which they had no right. In the seventeenth year of Edward II. Lymington practised this fraud; and an action was brought by the mayor and burgesses of Southampton against that town, for having taken duties on salt, barley, and oats, to the amount of 40s. and customs on cloth to the amount of 100s.

The argument of the plaintiffs was, that they held their town, with the port, extending from beyond Hurst to Langstone, of the crown, at £220 a year. The jury confirmed the claim, and the corporation of Southampton recovered damages to the amount of £200.

In 1324, in Madox's *Formulare Anglicanum*, mention of a mayor and bailiff occurs. The writ is directed "*Majori et ballivis*;" but the corporation's list of the mayors of the town does not commence till more than a century after, (in 1446,) since which time it has been regularly kept.

In 1327, the first year of Edward III., the town of Southampton petitioned parliament, that, in consideration of the charge of providing ships for the king, their privilege of having customs within the ports, should be continued to them. That they had long enjoyed these, was proved by reference to records, in which, little to their credit, there appeared against them indictments for extortion, in taking more custom than was due.\*

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\* Rushworth's Collections, p. 536, edit. 1680.

From an old lease, it appears that, in 1334, Above-bar street existed; which is an additional proof of the antiquity of the town in its *present* situation.\*

In the next year, Southampton was appointed as the magazine of provisions for the fleet, in this quarter.†

The increasing prosperity of Southampton received a sudden check in this reign, during the contest which arose between Philip de Valois and Edward the Third, respecting the succession to the crown of France. By the Salic law, instituted in very early times, no woman could govern that kingdom; so that, on the decease of Charles the Fair, king of France, without issue, (who had succeeded by virtue of the Salic law,) Philip de Valois claimed it, as being the next male heir. But Edward, who was son of Isa-

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\* This writing is entitled, "A lease from Richard Caneacer to Walter Wytegod, for one tenement in the suburbs of Southampton, in the parish of All Saints, in the street called Boue Barre Strete."

† Harl. MS. in Bree's Sketch of the Naval, Military, and Civil Establishment of this Kingdom, during the 14th Century.

bella, (the daughter of Philip the Fair, and the sister of the last three kings,) thought his title better than that of a cousin-german only, and pursued his claim by invading France with a powerful army. During the continuance of hostilities, a fleet, consisting of fifty gallies, French, Spanish, and Genoese, came to Southampton in October, 1338, and landed a large body of men, who killed all that opposed them: then entering the houses, they instantly hanged many of the superior inhabitants, plundered the town, and reduced great part of it to ashes.\* They did not, however, effect this devastation with impunity; several distinguished personages of their party were slain, and among them the son of the king of Sicily. Stowe thus relates the manner of this prince's death.

“ Fifty gallies, well manned and furnished, came to Southampton, about nine of the clock, and sacked the town; the townsmen running away for fear. By the breake of the next day, they which fled, by help of the country there-

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\* Hen. de Knyghton.—Froissart.

about, came against the pyrates, and fought with them; in the which skirmish were slain to the number of three hundred pyrates, together with their captain, a young soldier, the king of Sicilia son. To this young man the French king had given whatever he got in the kingdom of England; but he being beaten down by a certain man of the countrey, cried "Rançon." Notwithstanding, the husbandman laid him on with his club, till he had slain him, speaking these words: "Yea, (quoth he,) I know well enough thôu art a *Françon*, and therefore shalt die:" for he understood not his speech, neither had he any skill to take gentlemen prisoners, and to keep them for their ransome."\*

The lower end of Bugle Street, called 'the Gravel,' is supposed to have been at this time but slightly fortified, if at all, and it was therefore probably the spot where the invaders landed.†

This disaster depressed but a short time the spirits of the Southampton people; for, being an

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\* Stowe's Annals.

† See Sir H. Englefield's "Walk through Southampton," p. 88.

active commercial race, and receiving the countenance and assistance of the king, they soon recovered from their consternation, and began repairing the town and strengthening the fortifications.

In 1345, when Edward III. was raising a fleet, for the invasion of France, we have the following list of the proportion of ships to be furnished by the various ports of Hampshire.

		<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Mariners.</i>
Isle of Wight	- - - -	13	220
Portsmouth	- - - -	5	96
Hannil-hoke (now Hamblehook)		11	208
Southampton	- - - -	21	576
Lymington	- - - -	9	159

This proves the superior importance, at that time, of Southampton;\* which, in this expedition, was appointed to be the place of rendezvous for the western division of the fleet.

On the 4th of July, in the same year, the army which afterward so memorably signalized itself at Cressy, was embarked at this port. Be-

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\* From ancient MS. quoted in Bree's Sketch. Even Poole at that time furnished no more than 4 ships, and 194 mariners.



fore their embarkation, king Edward arrived with his gallant son, afterward called the Black Prince, then not sixteen years old; and, assembling his troops, addressed them in a speech, in which he exhorted them to such a behaviour as should render them worthy of his esteem, and of the rewards which he designed for those who should discharge their duty. He declared it to be his intention to send back his ships the moment he set foot in France; and that therefore it would be in vain for them to hope ever to revisit their native land, unless they returned victorious. He added, if any man's courage failed, he need only declare his unwillingness, and he should instantly have his leave to stay at home. Won by so ingenuous a declaration, and animated by the presence of their king and prince, the soldiers unanimously exclaimed, that they were ready to follow wherever he might be pleased to lead them. They immediately embarked, and set sail for Guienne: but being twice repulsed by contrary winds, Geoffrey de Harcourt, who attended the king, made use of this juncture to persuade him to land in Nor-

mandy, a very plentiful country, which had long been exempted from the ravages of war. Edward, following his advice, landed at La Hogue.

The army embarked on this expedition consisted of 4000 men at arms, 10,000 archers, 12,000 Welch footmen, and 6000 Irish. A great number of the nobility accompanied the king: and the number of vessels employed was 1600.\*

In 1348, we find instructions from the king to the mayor and bailiffs, directing them how to proceed in the case of a Spanish ship laden with French property, which had been taken by Sir Nicholas Amory, and brought into this port. The vessel was bound for St. Malo, and had on board wine, iron, and other merchandise, the property of certain French merchants of Rochelle. She had also on board, prisoners, two merchants of Bayonne, the king's subjects. The lords of the council decreed, that the cargo, after valuation made on oath by competent persons of Southampton, under the superintendence of John

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\* Froissart. Walsingham. Knyghton, apud Bree.

de Elderton, sergeant-at-arms, sent down for that purpose, should be fairly and reasonably divided between Sir Nicholas and his men; and that the vessel, with her stores, should be restored entire to the Spanish captain; and reasonable satisfaction be made to him for the delay.\* Hence it appears, that in those days there were no fixed regulations for the division of prize-money; and that what is now the business of the admiralty, at that time came under the cognizance of the privy council.

The same year, the town suffered much from a destructive pestilence; which, beginning in China, had swept over the face of the whole discovered globe; and, entering into this island, spent its first fury in this neighbourhood. Provisions became cheap, for want of mouths to consume them; but, in the same proportion, labour became dear, for want of hands to execute it. Knyghton says, a fat ox sold for 4s., a cow for 12d., a sheep for 3d. But, in the following autumn, the wages of a common reaper were at

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\* Rymer; Bree's Sketch, p. 233.

the comparatively enormous price of 8*d.* a day ; of a mower, 12*d.* a day ; beside their food. Hence a great part of the harvest, instead of being housed, was left to rot on the ground.\*

In 1354, one of the staples, or settled marts, of wool, leather, wool-fells, and lead, was fixed at Winchester ; thence, when necessary, to be shipped, for Ireland, at this port.†

The next year, Southampton was again the rendezvous of a division of the fleet ; a writ having been issued by the king to arrest all vessels of twenty tons and upward, for his service. This was probably to convey a reinforcement of troops to Edward the Black Prince, then in France : who, in the next year, took the French king prisoner at Poitiers.‡

Richard II. repaired and strengthened the Castle.¶

\* Hen. de Knyghton. Milner's Winchester, i. 287, 288.

† Harl. MS. apud Bree. Mem. 1353, in the Stat. at Large.

‡ Cited in Rushworth's Collections.

¶ See Sir H. Englefield's "Walk," p. 72.—Henry IV. by letters under the privy seal, granted to the corporation of Southampton, for repairing and strengthening the fortifications,

During this reign, a patriotic individual lost his life for his good intentions toward Southampton. In the year 1379, a rich Genoa merchant proposed to the king, that, if he would suffer him to erect a castle at Southampton, for the better defence of the port, and the security of the merchandise, of which he intended to make it the repository, he would raise it to the highest rank among the ports of Europe, by the great resort of foreign merchants; who would plentifully supply this nation with the riches of the east, and, in return, carry back the produce of England. But several London merchants, apprehensive of the detriment which they were likely to suffer, from the execution of such a project, basely contrived to have him assassinated, as he was returning home one evening. He was murdered near his own door. One of the assassins was discovered, and punished in an exemplary manner.\*

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£100 a year, to be paid by the collector of the subsidy on wool exported from thence; £100 of the fee farm of the town; and he ordered a third £100 to be subscribed by the inhabitants themselves.

\* Walsingham. Maitland's Hist. of London, 138.

In 1394, several of the western counties petitioned to be permitted to send their wool into Normandy, and to receive French wares in return, at this port; which was refused, and they were directed to repair to Calais:\* yet, a few years after, an exception was made with respect to the merchants of Genoa, Venice, Catalonia, Arragon, and other countries of the west of Europe; who were permitted to land their merchandise at Southampton, and to take in wool from thence.†

The army which gained distinguished fame in the battle of Agincourt, was mustered at Southampton, before its embarkation for France, in 1415. While king Henry V. was waiting here for a favourable wind, a conspiracy was discovered, which, had it succeeded, would have effectually marred all his projects.

The earl of Cambridge, lord Scrope of Masham, and Sir Thomas Grey of Heton, were the chief conspirators. Historians are divided as to

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\* Bree, p. 308.

† Harl. MS. Bree, p. 219.

the object of the plot: some asserting that the project was suggested by the court of France, which, terrified by the preparations of Henry, had engaged these three noblemen, for the bribe of a million of livres, to murder the king at Southampton. Other writers, (with greater probability,) seem to think that the conspiracy was formed originally by the earl of Cambridge, second son of the duke of York; who, having espoused the sister of the earl of March, had zealously embraced the interests of that family, and engaged lord Scrope and Sir Thomas Grey, to second his views.\* However that may have been, the plot was discovered before it could be executed; and, as the formalities of law were not much regarded in those days, the prisoners were speedily tried, condemned, and executed, at Southampton. Their remains were afterwards buried in the chapel of God's house in this town; where the following notification of the conspiracy and its ill success may be seen, on a monument erected by a late lord Delawar.

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\* Holinshed, p. 549.

**RICHARD, EARL OF CAMBRIDGE,  
LORD SCROPE OF MASHAM,  
SIR THO. GREY OF NORTHUMBERLAND,  
CONSPIRED**

**TO MURDER KING HENRY V. IN THIS TOWN,  
AS HE WAS PREPARING TO SAIL WITH HIS ARMY  
AGAINST CHARLES VI. KING OF FRANCE;  
FOR WHICH CONSPIRACY THEY WERE EXECUTED,  
AND BURIED NEAR THIS PLACE,  
IN THE YEAR MCCCCXV.**

In 1416, a number of French ships blocked up the English fleet at Portsmouth and Southampton, and made an attempt on the isle of Wight, but were repulsed.

In 1417, Henry V. was again at Southampton; which was appointed to be the rendezvous of his army, in his second invasion of France. His whole force consisted only of twenty-five thousand five hundred men; a very inconsiderable number for attempting the conquest of France. Historians afford us a minute account of the manner of raising these troops.

After the king had settled the pay of each soldier, and of every officer, according to his



rank and character, he made private contracts with several lords and gentlemen, by which they were obliged to provide him a certain number of horse or foot, for a settled annual sum, to be accounted for by quarterly payments. The first quartersage was advanced ; but, when the second became due, the king had no money. To supply the present occasion, he pawned to them all his remaining jewels,\* and gave them letters, under the great seal, empowering them to sell his jewels, if the money was not repaid within a certain time. The term allowed was twelve or eighteen months, according as the creditors were more or less tractable. By this means, he gained time for the payment of his troops, and reimbursed his creditors gradually. His subjects had such confidence in his sincerity and probity, that they scrupled not to lend him money on such securities.†

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\* He had previously pawned a part of them to the city of London, for £10,000 sterling; and even his crown to the bishop of Winchester, his uncle, for 100,000 marks.—Rapin.

† An ancient MS. in the British Museum contains a list of the whole navy in 1415: the transports were most pro-

In the reign of Edward IV. when the feuds between the houses of York and Lancaster raged with their utmost violence, scarcely a day elapsed which was not marked by some hostilities of the opposite parties. That division of sentiments with respect to the two contenders for the crown, which pervaded almost all England, subsisted at Southampton; and blazed out with so much fury on the occasion, that a fierce skirmish ensued between the partisans of the White and Red Roses, in which several of the inhabitants lost

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bably pressed for the occasion, (which was anciently very common; no reparation being made for loss of time, &c.): the king's ships were the following: *six grands niefs*—La Trinité, Le Seynt Esprit, 3 carrakes, Le Nicholas; *huit barges*—La Katharine, Le Gabriel, Le Thomas, La Marie, Le Rooderooge, La petite Trinité, et deux autres; *dix balingers*—Le Gorge, La Rue, Le Gabriel de Barfleur, Le Crachere, Le James, Le Cigne, La petite Joan, Le Nicholas, et deux autres.—See Bree's Sketch. The early superiority of the British navy is proved by an ancient roll of Parliament, (46th of Edward III. A.D. 1373,) in which the Commons complain of its having, of late, considerably decayed. Twenty years ago, (they observe,) "*la navie du dit roiaulme estoit en toutz portz e bonnes villes sur meer et sur rivieres, si noble, et si plenteouse, que touz lez pais tenoient et appelloient notre avaut dit seigneur le roi de la meer.*"—Bree, 176.

their lives. The Yorkists being at length victorious, the leaders of the Lancasterian party were taken prisoners. Edward was of a temper too jealous and severe to pardon so great an insult on his government: hastening to Southampton, he immediately commissioned Tibetot, or Tiptoft, earl of Worcester, to sit in judgment on the prisoners. About twenty of them were tried, condemned, and executed; but the malice of the monarch, not satisfied with that infliction which ought to close the scene of human punishment, permitted their bodies to be impaled, and in this situation exposed to the public gaze; a mean gratification of impotent revenge, useless as it was unpopular, which brought a deserved odium on the king, and on Tiptoft as the minister of his vengeance.\*

There was at Southampton, during these times of trouble, more than one remarkable execution: that of Thomas Nevil, a natural son of lord Falconbridge, deserves selection. He had formerly been appointed, by the earl of Warwick, to be

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\* Leland's Collectanea, i. 502.

vice-admiral of the sea, with a charge so to keep the passage between Dover and Calais, that king Edward might have no communication with his friends in England. And when, by the death of Warwick, he was brought to poverty, being a man of no less courage than audacity, he turned pirate and robber, sparing neither friend nor foe. Having collected many ships, he at length landed in Kent, and, taking advantage of the confusion of the times, declared for Henry VI. Assembling from Kent and Essex a band of desperate men, who were willing to undertake any thing for the sake of plunder, he boldly marched to London, assaulted the drawbridge, and endeavoured to scale Aldgate. Being repulsed, he fled to his ships, and, putting to sea, wandered friendless, outcast, and conscious of having forfeited his life by his treason. Weary, at length, of a state of restless anxiety, he seems carelessly to have thrown himself into the hands of justice, by entering Southampton-haven, and landing; soon after which he was taken and beheaded, in the year 1470. The old historian who supplies these particulars, observes, that, had his insurrection been

better timed, it might have proved a serious affair to Edward; as "Nevil (he observes) for his evyll conditions was such an apt person, that a more meeter could not be chosen to set all the world in a broyle, and to put the estate of the realme in an ylle hazarde."

In 1433, the eleventh year of Henry the Sixth, assignments were made by the lords of the council, on the customs and subsidies of the port of Southampton, to the feoffees of part of the possessions of the dutchy of Lancaster, under the will of Henry V. for the payment of £3028, and also of £3000 newly advanced as a loan to the king: the feoffees to appoint a customer, and freely to have all the receipts of the port, till both the sums are repaid.\* This customer is said to have been Sir Thomas Cook, lord mayor of London;† a man who, in the next reign, suffered most arbitrary and unjust prosecutions; being long detained in prison after his full acquittal from a charge of treason, and not being able to

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\* MS. apud Bree, 318.

† Magna Britannia,—Hampshire.

obtain a release, till he had paid the king, for alledged misprision of treason, £8000. His great wealth indeed seems to have made him a tempting object of persecution; for, during his imprisonment, his wife was, by authority, removed from his premises, "in which time, (says an old author,) he lost a great value of jewelless, plate, and money, with sundry rich merchandises, as cloth of gold, silver, velvet, sattens, and other silkes." And even after his release, he was again called on by the queen, "who demanded of him of every thousande pounce that he paid to the king for his fine, one hundredth marke that was due to her."

In the autumn of 1461, Edward IV., in a progress which he made through several parts of his kingdom, visited Southampton, and went hence into Wales.\*

In 1471, a skirmish took place, near Southampton, between the troops of the dukes of Clarence and Warwick, and those of earl Rivers, in which that gallant nobleman defeated them,

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\* Stowe, page 416.

and prevented their seizing a large vessel, called the Trinity, belonging to the town. Earl Rivers is the third character on England's List of Noble Authors. "The credit of the queen his sister, the countenance and example of his prince, the boisterousness of the times, nothing softened, nothing roughened the mind of this amiable lord ; who was as gallant as his luxurious brother-in-law, without his weakness ; as brave as the heroes of either Rose, without their savageness ; studious in the intervals of business, and devout after the manner of those whimsical times, when men challenged others whom they never saw, and went barefoot to visit shrines in countries of which they had scarce a map." In 1473, understanding that there were to be a jubilee and pardon, at St. James's, in Spain, he sailed from Southampton, and for some time "was full vertuously occupied in goyng of pilgrimagis to St. James in Galice, to Rome, and other diverse holy places."\* This accomplished nobleman

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\* Walpole's Royal and Noble Authors.—It was in this voyage, earl Rivers tells us, that, "lacking syght of all landes, the wynde being good and the weder fayr, then for a recreacyon

was one of the victims of the ambition of the tyrant Richard III., being beheaded in Pontefract castle without any form of trial.

In 1512, the third year of Henry VIII., Lord Thomas Grey, marquis of Dorset, collected his army of ten thousand men, and embarked at this port, for the assistance of Ferdinand, king of Spain, against the French. Among these, (according to the Spanish historians,) were above five thousand archers, who, beside their bows, carried halberts, which they pitched in the ground till their arrows were shot; and then, taking them up again, rushed forward to engage the enemy at close quarters, which was then deemed an excellent piece of military discipline.†

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and passyng of tyme, he had delite, and axed to rede some good historye. A worshipful gentylman, called Lewys de Bretaylles, lent him the Dictes and Sayinges of the Philosophers, translated out of Latin into Frenshe, which, when he had heided and looked upon, as he had tyme and space, he gaaf thereto a veray affection," and afterward translated the work. The boek is supposed to be the second that was printed in England by Caxton. The earl was a great patron of printing. Walpole has given a very curious engraving, from an ancient MS., of this nobleman presenting Caxton to Edward IV.

† Hayward's Reign of Henry VIII.



On the 6th of July, 1522, the emperor Charles V. embarked at Southampton, on his return to Spain. This was at the close of his politic visit to our court, in which it had been his aim to flatter the vanity\* of Henry; to engage Wolsey in his interests, by promising him the papacy; and to conciliate the esteem of the nation in general. During his stay in England, he appointed the earl of Surrey his high admiral; who, immediately sailing with his fleet, made two successful descents on the French coast; and, afterwards putting into the port of Southampton, with a detachment of his ships, took the emperor on board, Henry having accompanied him on his road as far as Winchester.†

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\* And flattery was evidently very agreeable to him. What honest man would have received, and, indeed, what honest man would have offered, such profane encomiums, as those of the Pope, in his letter to Henry, applauding his exertions in the controversy against Luther! "*Quasi reputantes, non sine permissu divino, erupisse adversus Christi ecclesiam, Luterianam hanc impietatem, ut ipse majore sua cum gloria talem propugnatorem et defensorem sortiri possit.*"—Rymer's *Fœdera*, xiii. 758. Alas! for his infallibility, when Henry changed sides.

† Hayward.—They were at Winchester some days, where their notice was particularly attracted by the celebrated piece of antiquity, which has obtained the name of Arthur's Round

Leland, the antiquary, who was commissioned by Henry VIII. to make a perambulation through England, for the purpose of searching the conventual libraries, and preserving various remains of monastic antiquity, visited Southampton in his tour. He has left the following account of its state at that period.

“ There be in the fair and right strong waulle of New Hampton, eight gates. Over Barr gate by N. is the *Domus Civica*, and under it the town prison. There is a great suburb without it, and a great double dyke welle watered on eche hand without it. The east gate is stronge, not so large as Barre gate; and in its suburb stands St. Mary’s church. To the south gate joins a castelet, well ordinauncid, to beat that quarter of

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Table. On this occasion it was newly painted, and a distich inserted at the bottom:

“ Carolus Henricus vivat; defensor uterque;  
Henricus fidei, Carolus ecclesiæ.”

Fuller, in his Church History, says, “ there went a tradition, that Patch, the king’s fool, perceiving the king very jocund one day, asked him the reason; and, when the king told him it was because of his new title, ‘ Defender of the Faith,’ the fool made this arch reply: “ Prithee, good Harry, let thee and I defend one another, and let the faith alone to defend itself.”

the haven. There is another mean gate a little more south, called God's-house gate, of an hospital founded by two merchants, joined to it; and not far beyond it is Water-gate, without which is a key. There are two more gates. The glory of the castle is in the dungeon, that is both large, fair, and strong, both by work and the site of it. There be five parish churches in the town. Holy Rood church standeth in the chief street, which is one of the fairest streets that is in any town in England, and it is well buildid for timber building. There be many fair merchants' houses, and in the south-east part was a college of Grey Friars. Here was also an hospital called God's House, founded by two merchants, impropriated syns to Queen's College, Oxford."\*

The 'castelet' above mentioned by Leland, is standing at present; and, as the neighbourhood of Portsmouth, and the respectability of our marine, have long rendered it useless as a fort, it now serves as a prison for debtors. It is said

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\* Leland's Collectanea, i. 502.

to have been built by Henry VIII., who presented, at the same time, some ordnance to the town; one piece of which is still to be seen on the adjoining platform. It bears the date of 1542, and Henry's title of "*Fidei defensor invictissimus*;" a title, which, "by a singular felicity in the wording, suited Henry equally well, when he burned Papists or Protestants; it suited each of his daughters, Mary and Elizabeth; it fitted the martyr Charles, and the profligate Charles; the Romish James, and the Calvinist William; and, at last, seemed peculiarly adapted to the weak head of high-church Anne."\*

Leland also made the following report of some of the principal houses :

"The chiefest is the house that Huttoft, late customer of Southampton, builded on the west side of the town. The house that Master Lightster, chief barone of the king's exchequer, dwelleth in, is very fair; the house that Master Mylles, the recorder, dwelleth in, is fair; and so be the houses of Nicoline and Guidote, Italians."

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\* Walpole.

Among the number of royal visitors who have occasionally honoured Southampton with their presence, it reckons Edward VI. In the year 1552, this prince having been attacked both by the measles and small-pox, his constitution was so much weakened, as to render relaxation absolutely necessary. By the advice of his physicians, therefore, he made a tour of amusement through the western and southern parts of his kingdom, attended by a band of three hundred and twenty soldiers, and courtiers and servants to the amount of four thousand horse.\* During this expedition, he kept up a correspondence with his friend Barnaby Fitzpatric. In one of his letters, written from Christchurch, Edward mentions his visit to Southampton; which, from the short description that he has given, appears to have been at that period in a flourishing state. "From thence [Portsmouth] we went," says he, "to Titchfield, (the earl of Southampton's house,) and so to Southampton town. The citizens had bestowed for our coming great cost in painting, repairing,

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\* Hayward.

and rampairing their walls. The towne is handsome, and for the bignesse of it as faire houses as be at London. The citizens made great cheer, and many of them kept costly tables.”\*

In the latter part of the reign of this amiable prince, it was in agitation to establish at Southampton a free mart for the sale of English goods, particularly cloth and tin. Hull was thought a proper port for the merchants of Prussia, Denmark, Sweden, and Norway; Southampton for those of Normandy, Gascony, Lombardy, &c. A paper is still extant in the Cotton Library, written by Edward himself, in which he has collected the objections and arguments on this subject. He proposed that the mart should begin at Whitsuntide, and continue five weeks; that liberty of resort and return should be granted without arrest, except in criminal cases; that during the time no goods should be shipped from any place between South Wales and Essex, except only to Southampton; that in Hants, Wilts, Sussex, Surrey, Kent, and Dorset, no bargain should

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\* Letters of Edward VI. to Barnaby Fitzpatric.

be made for wares during that time, but only at Southampton; that a court should be erected, to punish offenders; that some particular commodity, or sort of cloth, should be assigned as proper to the mart; that certain privileges should be given to the inhabitants of Southampton; and that money should be lent them for commencing the undertaking. The experiment was first to be made here; and, if it succeeded, the other proposed mart was forthwith to be established at Hull. This plan was fully agreed on by the council; but some circumstances preventing its immediate execution, and the king's sickness and death succeeding, it was wholly neglected; and Southampton lost all prospect of the privileges and emoluments which would have resulted to it from a project at that time considered to be of great national importance.\*

In July, 1554, the marriage contract having been settled between Philip prince of Spain and Mary, he arrived at Southampton, with a fleet of 160 sail, partly Spanish and partly English, and

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\* Hayward's Reign of Edward VI.; Burnet's History of the Reformation.

remained four days in this town. Mary in the meanwhile removed from Windsor Castle to Winchester, where the nuptial ceremony was performed with much Popish parade by her favourite Gardiner.\*

From a memorandum in the register of St. Michael's parish, it appears, that, in the month of August, 1560, Southampton had the honour of a visit from queen Elizabeth. She came hither from Netley Castle, where she had been entertained by its owner, the earl of Hertford, who at that time stood high in her favour. After staying in the town three days, she left it for Winchester.

It is a curious fact respecting the comparative population of Winchester and Southampton about this period, that while that city, once the residence of kings, had fallen into such decay, as to be capable of furnishing only 90 men fit to bear arms, Southampton could supply 490 of that description.†

The Protestants of the Netherlands, under the persecution of the duke of Alva, who, as a true

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\* Heylyn.—Stowe.

† Milner, i. 372.



son of holy church, was meritoriously engaged in attempting the total extirpation of liberty and heresy, found a refuge at Southampton. This was one of the places where Elizabeth gave them liberty to settle. She also appointed them a chapel in God's House, where a French Protestant minister still continues to officiate. The protection which England afforded to these persecuted Christians, was amply rewarded by the improvement of trade, from their skill in the manufacture of various cloths, some of which were never before made in this country.\*

The extension of its trade increased gradually the magnitude of Southampton and the wealth of its inhabitants. Camden, who wrote in the time of Elizabeth, records its being famous for the number and beauty of its buildings, its affluent inhabitants, and the resort of numerous merchants.† In 1558, the 31st of Elizabeth, this port had 8 ships above 100 tons, 7 above 80, and 47 under 80.‡

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\* Camden's Annals of Elizabeth, an. 1568.

† Gough's Camden's Britannia, i. 116.

‡ MS. apud Bree, 359.

Early in his reign, Charles I. appears to have resided some time in Southampton. Being obliged, in 1625, to quit the metropolis, on account of the plague which raged there, and to adjourn the parliament to Oxford, he afterwards came with his council to this town; where he was met by ambassadors from Holland, to deliberate on a treaty of offensive and defensive alliance.\*

From the levy of ship-money, in 1636, it appears that Southampton still preserved its importance; a larger sum being raised here than in any other town of Hampshire.†

Charles I. renewed and enlarged the charter of the town.

In the war between Charles I. and the Parliament, a part of the Parliament's army having been surprised somewhere in the south, were allowed to march peaceably to Southampton,

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\* See duke of Buckingham's speech in Rushworth's Col. i. 228.

† The sums were, Southampton, £195; Winchester, £190; Portsmouth, £60; Basingstoke, £60; Romsey, £30.—Rushworth.

provided they would leave their arms, ammunition, and ordnance.\*

In 1654, during the government of the protector Oliver, the mayor and corporation were treated very unhandsomely by a captain Jubbs, who, coming from Portsmouth, got admission into the town, under pretence of assisting them in protecting it, and afterward surprising them when assembled in the council-house, made them prisoners there, insisting on their delivering to him the keys of the gates. They immediately dispatched to Oliver a special messenger with an account of the transaction. We are not informed in what manner the affair terminated. Their letter is given in the third volume of Thurloe's State Papers.†

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\* Thurloe's State Papers, i. 49.

† The magistrates of Southampton do not seem to have been very well affected toward Cromwell, notwithstanding they had returned to parliament Richard Major, esq. of Hursley, whose daughter was married to Oliver's son, Richard. Mr. Major's father was an alderman of the corporation; yet, in a letter from major-general Goffe to Cromwell's secretary, Thurloe, we have mention of "sadd complaints concerning the unworthy carriage of the magistrates of the towne of Southampton against

The year 1665 was long memorable in Southampton, on account of the dreadful plague with which it was then visited. From tradition we learn that the disease was introduced by means of infected child-bed linen. Its effects were extensively destructive. The rich having hastily retired into the country, to avoid infection, trade being at a stand, and provisions extremely dear, the poorer inhabitants were deprived of the means of subsistence, and were in danger of perishing through want. The shops were shut, and the streets overgrown with grass. A petition for relief and for medical assistance, was presented to king Charles II. at Salisbury, whither he had retired on account of the prevalence of the same disease in London. It was stated that there was much danger, lest the poor, driven to desperation, should break out of the town, and

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the godly party: for prevention whereof for the future," he says, "I hope wee may, in due time, propound some humble desires to his highnes. My lord Richard Cromwell and Mr. Major are very sensible of the wicked spirrit of the majestates, and doe judge it absolutely needful that something be done against them." Dated May 5, 1656.—Thurloe's State Papers, iv. 764.

propagate the infection still more extensively. The king immediately promoted a subscription, to which he contributed fifty pounds. He was followed by the earl of Southampton, then lord treasurer, with the same sum. The cities of Salisbury and Bristol also took up the cause of humanity, and nearly two thousand pounds were collected.\* There is no record of the number who died.

In 1695, Gibson, in his edition of Camden, observes, that Southampton was "not in the same flourishing state as formerly; for, having lost its trade, it has lost also most of its inhabitants; and the great houses of its merchants are now dropping to the ground, and only show its ancient magnificence."

In 1720, the editors of the *Magna Britannia* remark, on the population of the town, that "though there are five churches, fewer would suffice for the number of inhabitants at that time." They also say, "there has been a stage

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\* The above particulars are extracted from the registers of the corporation of Southampton.

coach from London for some years, that has run through in a day all the summer."\*

In 1728, we learn from the Commercial Atlas published at that time, the trade of the port had decayed; though the author observes, this was formerly in a manner the exchange of England for the purchase and sale of Newfoundland fish: but in his time Poole had the chief part of the trade, and the Exchange of London engrossed the correspondence. Smuggling, also, he observes, was sufficiently brisk.

In October, 1754, it was published in the Gazette, that the corporation of Southampton, for the encouragement and revival of their trade, had given up their petty customs on goods imported or exported, to or from Africa and America, for twenty-one years to come. Notice was also given, that merchants concerned in any other foreign trade would be admitted to compound their duties on reasonable terms.†

In November, 1756, a body of Hessian troops

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\* Magna Britannia,—Hampshire.

† Gent. Mag. 1754, p. 482.

being at Southampton, and the innkeepers refusing to give them quarters, orders were sent to the Hessian generals, to build huts for the reception of their troops, and to continue in camp till January. The huts were built to contain sixty men each, in the middle of which they made their fire, and all sat around. But in December they went into winter quarters, some agreement having, probably, been made. The grenadier regiment came to Southampton; the rest were quartered in various parts of the county.\*

About 1759, during a French war, another army of Hessians was brought over, to defend this country, then under great apprehensions of invasion. A large body of them was landed at Southampton; some were encamped near Winchester; and others quartered in the town very abundantly, to the great charge of the innkeepers, who were afterwards indemnified by parliament.†

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\* Gent. Mag. p. 544, 592.

† In the supplies granted for 1759, were £2500 paid to the innholders and victuallers in Southampton, and others in the like circumstances, in consideration of the great expenses they were put to by the Hessian troops having been so long billeted at their houses.—Beatson, vol. ii. Appendix, p. 118.

Early in the late reign, the prosperity of Southampton was revived by its becoming a fashionable watering place. It attracted the attention of the late duke of York, brother to George the Third, who occasionally resided here, and drew to it numerous visitants. Since that period, the erection of numerous villas in the neighbourhood by gentlemen of fortune, added to a degree of increase in the trade of the port, and a spirit of enterprise in building, has drawn to this spot a considerable population.

During the war closed by the peace of Amiens, Southampton was the scene of much military preparation. In 1794, the army was encamped on Netley common which embarked from this port, and proceeded with the earl of Moira to Ostend, where their ill success is too well known. The troops also on the unfortunate expedition of Quiberon, embarked from our quay.

In 1795, after a short encampment on Shirley common, and after having been reviewed by the prince of Wales and duke of York, another fine army quitted our shores, destined to the baleful



coasts of the West Indies; "to perish, not in the field of honour, but on the bed of sickness!—not amidst the shouts of victory, but the groans of despair!—condemned to linger in the horrors of pestilence; to fall without a conflict, and die without renown."\*

In 1799, another camp was formed on Shirley common; but the troops which composed it were suddenly summoned to Yarmouth, there to embark for the fatal Helder.

Lastly, in 1800, another body of troops encamped on Netley common, and soon after embarked here for Egypt. The event of their exertions forbids us to write unsuccessful on the whole of the military preparations in which Southampton has been concerned.

The late war called forth the spirit and loyalty of the inhabitants, which were manifested in the formation of four different corps for the defence of the country; one of cavalry, and three of infantry; the first of the latter being composed

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\* Edwards's West Indies, vol. iii. ch. 11.

of householders, the second of younger inhabitants, the third raised and trained at the sole expense of Walter Taylor, esq.; to which also may be added a company of sea fencibles.

# MISCELLANEOUS PARTICULARS

RELATING TO

## SOUTHAMPTON.

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**SOUTHAMPTON** was originally summoned to parliament in the twenty-sixth year of Edward I. (A. D. 1298;) but in the second and fourth of Edward II. it made no returns. Henry VI. made it a town and county of itself. In 1689, the right of election was resolved, by a committee of the House of Commons, to be in the burgesses and inhabitants: in 1695, it was resolved, that the no<sup>r</sup> resident burgesses, as well as those who inhabited the town and paid scot and lot, had a right to vote; and in 1735, it was determined that the mayor and bailiffs are the returning officer.\*

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\* History of Parliamentary Representation, p. 292.

“ In former times, before the House of Commons had acquired its present weight and importance in the scale of the constitution, the right of representation in parliament was considered by many towns as a *burden*; and there are instances on record, of boroughs petitioning to be excused from this expensive honour. The representatives of towns in those days, being, in general, chosen from among the *actual burgesses* of the different corporations, were unable, without assistance, to bear the heavy expenses of travelling to and from the parliament; and, accordingly, they often found it necessary to apply to their constituents for a *regular salary*, while they continued thus employed in their service.”\* An instance of this occurs among the archives of the town of Southampton, in the following words :—“ 1st Hen. VII. Thomas Reynold rode from Southampton to the parlement Jan. 23, and returned March 8, being six and forty days, and received for his parlement wages 7l. 13s. 4d.”†

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\* Warner's Topographical Remarks in Hampshire, i. 29.

† Cited in Warner's Top. Rem. i. p. 30, note.

This allowance amounted to 3s. 4d. a day. Thomas Reynold was one of the corporation, and had been mayor a few years before.\*

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The ancient punishment of criminals for capital offences, in Southampton, in the time of the Saxons, was *drowning*; different places then having modes of punishment peculiar to them-

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\* The curious reader will be amused by the following ancient indenture, relating to the present subject:—"Thys bill indentyd mead the viii day of Aprille in the thridde yer of Kyng Edward the fowrte betwyn Thomas Peers & John Scheelyng Balyffs of Donewych & John Strawnge of Brampton Esquyer, wetnessyth that the sayd John Strawnge grauntyth be these presents to been oon of the Burgeys for Donewych at the P'lement to been holdyn at Westmt the xxix day of the sayd monyth of Aprille ffor the qwhych qwehdyr it holde longe tyme or schortt or gwhedye it fortune to been P'rogofft the sayd John Strawnge grauntyth *no more to be takyn for hys wagys then a Cade of full Heryng* tho' to been dylyv'id be Xitenmasse next comyng. In Wetnyssse heroff eythyr partt to others Indentur inter Chawnxubilly her setys han sett day and yer above sayd."—There is extant also a letter from the mayor of Bath to John Harrington, esq. so lately as 1645, in which he requests that gentleman to *accept again the trouble of going to parliament*; the city of Bath having had long experience of his worth and sincerity.

selves: thus at Winchester for some crimes they were mutilated, and had one eye bored out.\*

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Southampton gave the title of earl, to Osric, a gallant commander against the Danes, in 860: afterward, to Ælflegus, who died in 981: next, to Afelme, father-in-law of Canute, and grandfather of Harold: after him, to Bevis, or Bevois, who, at the time of the conquest, was a powerful Saxon lord; and who, with an army of English, Danes, and Welch, resisted the Normans, till he was at length, in 1070, defeated at Cardiff; whence he fled to Carlisle, and we hear of him no more.†

The name of Beves is very singularly introduced on the ancient admiralty seal of the corporation; without any apparent connexion; the inscription being, "*Sigillum Majoratus Ville Suthamtone. Beves.*"‡

His memory is preserved among us not only

\* Milner's Winchester, i. 280.

† Magna Britannia,—Hampshire.

‡ Walk through Southampton, p. 43.

by the curious portrait on the Bar-gate, but by the name of an eminence, about a mile from the town; which is called *Bevis Hill*; whether on account of any battle in which he might have been concerned on that spot, or whether from its being the place of his interment, it is now too late to ascertain. The absurd romance, which bears the title of *Sir Bevis of Southampton*, enjoyed, in former times, a longer popularity than any of our modern novels can boast. It was printed both in metre and prose. It was even translated into French, and published at Paris, in 1502. More than a century later, it still kept its place. In 1626, an old divine complains of some of his careless flock, that they commonly said, "that merry ballads and books, as Scoggin, *Bevis of Southampton*, &c., are good to drive away the time, and to remove heart-qualms."\*

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\* It is a disputed point among antiquaries, whether such a person as Bevis, or Bevois, earl of Southampton, ever existed, except in romance. They who take the affirmative side of the question, consider him as having flourished about the time of the Norman invasion. The figures on the Bargate evidently

**After Bevis, we find no person bearing the title, till Henry VIII., in 1538, bestowed it on**

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had their origin from the once popular romance called "Sir Bevis of Hamptoun." A brief abstract of this composition is here abridged from Mr. Ellis's "Specimens of early English Metrical Romances, chiefly written during the early part of the fourteenth century."

Sir Guy, earl of Southampton, is represented as having espoused, against her will, a lady much younger than himself. The fruit of this marriage is Bevois. When he is seven years old, his mother, whose affections have long been fixed on Sir Murdour, procures the assassination of her lawful husband, marries her paramour, and puts the young Bevis into the hands of Sir Saber, with directions to murder him. Sir Saber deceives this tender mother, and disguises Bevis in the dress of a shepherd. The boy at first submits patiently to the change; but, passing near the castle of his late father, and hearing the revelry that is taking place, he is seized with sudden indignation; he rushes into the castle, and knocks down his step-father with his club. He is now seized, by the command of his mother, and sold for a slave, to the commander of a vessel which conveys him to the country of the Saracens.

Here he is speedily noticed by king Ermyn, and he becomes the favourite of his daughter Josyan. He performs various prodigies of valour, and obtains knighthood, with the gift of the horse Arundel, the most astonishing animal that ever figured even in romance, and the sword Morglay. Thus equipped, scarcely any thing is too hard for him. By the treachery, however, of Ermyn, whom he offends, he is made prisoner in a distant terra incognita, of which neither geography nor history knows any thing, and he spends seven long years in a hideous



**William Fitzwilliams, connected by marriage with the family of Montacute; who, at that time,**

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dungeon. At length, fortunately escaping, he discovers Josyan, now espoused to a mighty monarch. He carries her off, "nothing loth," for she had submitted to the match against her own inclination, and they proceed towards Europe.

It is in the course of this journey, that Sir Bevis meets with Ascupart, or Ascapard, a terrible giant, whom he first defeats in a dreadful encounter, and afterwards, at the intercession of Josyan, spares his life, and makes him his page. Ascupart is thus described :

"This geaunt was mighty and strong,  
And full thirty foot was long.  
He was bristled like a sow ;  
A foot he had between each brow ;  
His lips were great, and hung aside ;  
His eyen were hollow ; his mouth was wide :  
Lothly he was to look on than,  
And liker a devil than a man.  
His staff was a young oak,  
Hard and heavy was his stroke."

Sir Bevis, Josyan, and Ascupart, with the horse Arundel, now embark on board a vessel bound to Germany, and soon arrive at Cologne. The bishop of Cologne proves to be the uncle of Sir Bevis ; who cannot let slip this fair opportunity of Christianizing his Mahometan "intended," and his heathen page. Josyan is baptized : and much merriment is excited among the good people of Cologne, by the attempt to christen the gigantic Ascupart, for whom a tun of water is provided.

united what would now be considered as the very opposite offices of admiral against the French,

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Sir Bevis, after slaying a most dreadful dragon, the very sight of which appalled even the mighty Ascupart, proceeds towards Southampton, to sieze on his inheritance. He is successful. Ascupart seizes Sir Murdour, the usurper of Bevis's inheritance, whom his son-in-law causes to be thrown into a cauldron,

“ Full of pitch and of brimstone  
And hot lead cast thereupon :”

on which occasion, the romance writer displays the fervour and tenderness of his piety, in this beautiful apostrophe :

“ There he died and made his end :  
His soul to hell so mot it wend !  
Houndes gnaw him to the bone !  
So wreak us, God, of all our foen.”

The countess, unwilling to survive her husband, throws herself from a tower, and is killed on the spot.

“ Then wedded Bevis and Josyan,  
With mirth and joy of many a man.  
Right great feast there was hold,  
Of earles, barouns, and knightys bold ;  
Of ladies and maidens I understond,  
All the fairest of that lond,  
That all the castle dinned and rong  
Of her mirth and of her song.”

The writer is not contented to end his story “happily.” Sir Bevis is soon hurried into his proper element again ; he offends king Edgar's son, by refusing to part with his horse Arundel ;

and treasurer of the king's household. In the former of these characters, he brought over Anne of Cleves, from France. Dying without issue, in an expedition against Scotland, the title remained a short time dormant; till, on the appointment of the board of regency, to manage the affairs of the kingdom during the minority of Edward VI., it was conferred on Sir Thomas Wriothesly, the friend and counsellor of Henry VIII.

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and Ascupart proves treacherous, and carries off Josyan, just after her accouchement with twin sons, who are named Guy and Mile. These grow up, and become redoubtable warriors, till they are at length settled, Sir Guy as king of Ermony, formerly the territory of Josyan's father; and Sir Mile, in right of his own wife, as king of England. Josyan expires in the arms of Bevis, Arundel dies suddenly in his stable, and Bevis breathes his last on the lips of the departed Josyan.

The romance, containing 4110 lines of wretched doggrel without the exhibition of a single character, except these furious and relentless hackers and slayers of their fellow-creatures, concludes in these words :

“ God on their souls have now pity,  
 And on Arundel his good steed,  
 Giff men for horse shoulde sing or read.  
 Thus endeth Sir Bevis of Hamptoun,  
 That was so noble a baroun.”

Bugle-hall, in Southampton, which was destroyed by fire a few years since, was built by this nobleman, and was his occasional residence. It was a spacious quadrangular mansion, with a court in the middle, and some of its apartments retained their painted glass and ancient carved work. A handsome modern house now occupies part of the site; of which count Wörönczow, ambassador to England, from the court of Russia, was, for a time, the tenant. It is somewhat singular that a great officer of the despotic Paul should, after so long a period, have inhabited the same spot as a prime minister of the arbitrary Henry.

Sir Thomas Wriothesly was chancellor in the latter part of the reign of Henry VIII. His zeal for the Catholic party carried him great lengths. Anne Ascue, a young woman of merit, as well as beauty, who had great connexions with the chief ladies at court, and with queen Catherine Parr herself, was accused of dogmatizing on the subject of transubstantiation. Henry, instead of showing indulgence to her sex and age, was but the more provoked that a woman should dare to

oppose his theological sentiments. She was prevailed on by Bonner's menaces to make a seeming recantation; but she qualified it with some reserves, which did not satisfy that furious bigot. She was thrown into prison; and she there employed herself in composing prayers and discourses, by which she fortified her resolution to endure the utmost extremity rather than relinquish her religious principles. Wriothesly was sent to examine her with regard to her patrons at court: but she maintained a laudable fidelity to her friends, and would confess nothing; though she was put to the torture in the most barbarous manner. Some authors add, that the chancellor, who stood by, ordered the lieutenant of the Tower to stretch the rack still further; and, on his repeated refusal, put his own hand to the rack, and drew it so violently that he almost tore her body asunder. Her constancy still surpassed the barbarity of her persecutors, and they found all their efforts to be baffled. She was then condemned to be burned alive; and being so dislocated by the rack that

she could not stand, she was carried to the stake in a chair.\*

This ungallant persecutor was soon after concerned in another effort to implicate in heresy a lady of the highest rank. His peevish and passionate master, who reconciled theological disputation with a life undisciplined either by religion or philosophy, thought that he could discover, in conversation with his amiable queen, Catherine Parr, a secret inclination on her part to the principles of the reformers. Highly provoked that she should differ from him, Henry complained of her obstinacy to bishop Gardiner, who gladly laid hold of the opportunity to inflame the quarrel. He praised the king's anxious concern for preserving the orthodoxy of his subjects; and represented, that the more elevated the person was who was chastised, and the more near to his person, the greater terror would the example strike into every one, and the more glorious would the sacrifice appear to posterity. Wriothesly, being consulted, zealously seconded these

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\* Hume, A.D. 1546.

topics ; and Henry ordered articles of impeachment to be drawn up against his consort. The chancellor executed his commands, and soon after brought the paper to be signed : for, as it was high treason to throw slander on the queen, he might otherwise have been questioned for his temerity. By some means this important paper fell into the hands of some of the queen's friends, who immediately carried the intelligence to her. She was sensible of the extreme danger to which she was exposed ; but did not despair of being able, by her prudence and address, still to elude the efforts of her enemies. She paid her usual visit to the king, and found him in a more serene disposition than she had reason to expect. Improving the opportunity, she so dexterously worked upon the high opinion that Henry possessed of his skill in theology, and expressed so much deference for his judgment and learning, that he sent her away with assurances of his protection and kindness. Her enemies, who knew nothing of this sudden change, prepared next day to convey her to the Tower, pursuant to the king's warrant. Henry and Catherine were conversing amicably

in the garden, when the chancellor appeared with forty of the pursuivants. The king spoke to him at some distance from her; and seemed to expostulate with him in the severest manner. She even overheard the appellations of *knave*, *fool*, and *beast*, which he liberally bestowed on Wriothesly; and then ordered him to depart from his presence. Catherine afterwards interposed to mitigate the king's anger. He said to her, "Poor soul! you know not how ill entitled this man is to your good offices."\*

Wriothesly was one of the sixteen executors, to whom, during the minority of Edward, Henry entrusted the government of the kingdom. In the struggle for power which succeeded the death of their arbitrary master, he stood in opposition to Somerset; and, as a punishment for his having, on his own authority, put the great seal in commission, that he might have the greater leisure for attending to public business, the council imposed a fine upon him, and ordered him to be confined to his own house during pleasure.

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\* Hume, A.D. 1546.



His grandson, Henry, earl of Southampton, made a conspicuous figure in the reign of Elizabeth, in consequence of his attachment to the earl of Essex. Like Essex he was brave and generous; but impetuous, and somewhat inclined to arrogance: like him, a munificent patron of the genius which he loved. Like his friend, again, he received from Her Majesty tokens of peculiar favour, which she occasionally suspended on his giving indications of an ungovernable temper or a too lofty spirit; and which she finally withdrew, on his presuming to marry without that consent which to certain persons she could never have been induced to accord. He was at length so implicated in the perilous enterprise which cost Essex his life, as to be impeached with him before the House of Peers, and with him found guilty and condemned to death. His life, however, was spared, at the intercession, chiefly, of Cecil; but he was confined in the Tower till the death of the queen.\*

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\* Miss Aikin's *Memoirs of the Court of Queen Elizabeth*, vol. ii. p. 395, 401, 465, 470, 471, 473, 479.

He was afterwards one of the privy council of James the First, but he bore little or no part in the administration of affairs; as he was overborne, in the former part of the reign, by the earl of Salisbury, who conceived a dislike to him, on account of his attachment to Essex. The indignation which he expressed at the pacific measures of the king, caused him to be committed a prisoner to the dean of Westminster, at the same time that the earl of Oxford was committed to the Tower for the same offence.\*

In the war of the Palatinate, this nobleman lost his eldest son by a fever, in the winter quarters at Rosendale; and as he was accompanying the corpse on its way to England for interment, died himself of a lethargy at Bergen-op-Zoom. Their remains were brought in a small vessel to Southampton, and buried at Titchfield.†

In 1624, he was succeeded in the title by his second son Thomas, a faithful adherent to

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\* Granger's Biog. Hist. of Eng. i. 324, 331.

† Wilson, p. 789.

the fortunes of Charles I. and II. Like another Sully, he was placed at the head of the treasury after the ravage and confusion of the civil war. With the capacity and application of that able minister, he undertook to reduce the public accounts to regularity and order ; and happily succeeded in that great attempt. But the king, who had not the least economy himself, was too apt to overlook that virtue in others ; and, what was still worse, was inclined to pull down much faster than his treasurer could build up. This excellent person, who was at once loyal and a patriot, died too soon for the good of his country. He was a man of a quick and lively conception, prompt elocution, invincible integrity, and amiable and exemplary in private life.\* He left no male heirs, but several daughters ; among whom was the excellent lady Rachel Russell.†

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\* Granger's Biog. Hist. of Eng. iii. 183.

† The Rev. Thomas Mears, of Southampton, has a small manual of private devotions written on vellum, entitled, "Prayers of the Holy Fathers of the Olde Testamente that we be not overcome in adversytye;" and dedicated in these words, "To the right honorable and vertuous Ladie the countesse of Southampton her most humble and obedient servaunte Roger Welden

After his death, Charles II. raised the title to a dukedom, on behalf of his natural son by the duchess of Cleveland.\*

In 1780, Charles Fitzroy, brother to the duke of Grafton, was created baron Southampton; and on his death the title descended to George Ferdinand Fitzroy, the present lord Southampton.



Copy of a curious letter from Sir John Cheyne to Sir John Pelham, (ancestor of the duke of Newcastle,) soliciting the loan of a sum of money.—Sir J. Cheyne probably served in the army of Henry V.; which was mustered and embarked at Southampton, in 1415.

“Rizt worshipfull and worthy Sir, y recomande me to zow† with all myn hoole heert

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wysshethe all honor helthe and prosperytie.” On one of the leaves at the end, written in a different hand, “God save our King James, 1616.”

\* Magna Britannia.

† This word *zow*, instead of the modern *you*, which frequently occurs in the letter before us, is often found thus

thankyng zow of the greet kyndenesses and gentilleses that ze hav schewed me er this tyme withoute deserte; and liketh it zow to witte, that the Kyng and all the Lordes beyng here faain wel y blessed be God. Ferthermore rizt worshipfull and worthy Sir, liketh hit zow to witte that I ame hie, and have been atte great costages and dispens; wherefore me nedeth to cheriche me of a certain notable somme er I go and y fer from myn hows; haveng full hope and trust in zour gracious and gentil persone, to help and socoure me atte this tyme in my most necessity, to lend me some notable somme of gold, like as the bringer of this, Thomas Garnetier my servaunt, schal trewly declare zow myn herte; and what day of paiement azen with reasonable suite; as ze zourself woll desire, I wot holde me agreed; as myn hoole trust is souverainly in zow, passing every man in this contree. And for most suite to zow, I send zow by this same

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written, in our ancient language. A learned author derives it from the Gothic *izwis*; which still continues in the Somersetshire dialect for the pronoun *you*.—Rev. Mr. Drake, in *Archæologia*, vol. v.

man certain thynges of myne, ze to have the  
 rewle and governaunce thereof, till ze be seur of  
 zour paiement. Rizt worschiful and worthy Sir,  
 zif ther be any service that hit like zow to com-  
 mande me to do for zow, and I with all my  
 power woll be ready to performee, praying the  
 Holy Trinite send zow honeur, prosperite, and  
 joye. Written in haste atte Hampton the 12th  
 day of Juyly.

“Zours at zour

“Commandement,

“JOHN CHEYNE.”\*

Superscribed in French,

“To the most Hon. and most valiant

Sir John Pelham, Knt.”



By the last will of Sir John Spencer, (ances-  
 tor of the duke of Marlborough,) dated April  
 12th, 1522, he requires his executors to recom-  
 pense every one that can lawfully prove, or will  
 make oath, that he has injured him in any  
 respect; provided they make their claim within

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\* Collins's Peerage, i. 541.

two years; though (as the will recites) he has none in his remembrance, but he had rather charge their souls than endanger his own. Of this he required his executors to cause proclamation to be made once a month for a whole year after his decease. Among the six towns in which this singular proclamation was to be made, Southampton is named. They were probably the places in which he was most known.\*



By an act of parliament passed in the year 1534, Southampton was one of the towns for which a suffragan bishop was to be appointed. There were to be twenty-five of these, who were to exercise such jurisdiction as the bishop of the diocese should give them; but their authority was to last no longer than the bishop continued his commission to them.†



There is a singular letter extant, written by Henry the Eighth to the widow Coward of South-

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\* Collins's Peerage, i. 375.

† Rapin, i. 803.

ampton ; in which that monarch takes upon him to recommend to the lady a second husband. Whether the lover had often solicited the fair one and found her cruel, or whether he wished to shorten the delays of courtship by addressing her under royal patronage, we are not informed. We are equally in the dark as to the success of this recommendatory billet-doux, written by one who was not much accustomed to take a denial. A copy of the letter follows :

“ Dere and well-belovid,

“ We gret yow well: leetyng yow know owre trusty and well-belovid srrvaunt Wyllyam Symonds, one of the sewers of owr chamber, hath shewid unto us that for the womanly dysposysyon, good and vertus behaviour, and other commendabull vertewes whiche he hath not only hard reportyd, but allso senned and pseyd in yow himselfe, at his last being in those ptyes,\* he hath sett his hart and mynde that he is very desyrous to honour yow by way

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\* Parts.



of maryage before all other creatures livinge: and for the admonyshment of this his good and lawdible porpos he hath made humble sewitte unto us, to writte unto yow, and others, yowre lovinge frindes, in his favor. We, consyderynge our said srvaunte's comendable requestes, his honest conversatyonne, and other manyfold vertuis, wt allso the trew and faythefull services heretofore many sonderly ways don unto us, as well in our warres as otherwise, and that he dayly doith about owr psonne, for owr synguler contentasyon pleasure; for the whiche we assewre yow we do tendre his pvysyonne accordyngly well, and desyre yow, at the contemplacyon of these oure leatters, to be of lyke benivolent mynde towards owr sayde svaunt, in such wisse that matrymony, to Gode's pleasure, may shortly be solempnysyd betwene yow bothe; wherby, in our opynyon, you shall not only do the thyng to the syngular comfort of yow both in tyme to come, but, by yowre so doing, yow may assewer yow, in all the causes reasonable of yow or any yowr frinds to be pursuyd unto us by owre sersaunte hereafter, ye shall have us good and gracious Lord to yow

bothe. And, to the intent that ye shall geve unto thys owre desyre the more faythful credence, we do send yow her enclosed a tokenne, praying yow to intender the matter accordingly."\*



During the reign of Elizabeth, Southampton was the residence of a very dangerous papist, of whom Strype supplies us with the following account: "In 1569, the papists were hatching a dangerous rebellion, which brake out in the northern parts in September; and was intended also, in all likelihood, to have appeared as formidable in the *west* at the same time, had it not been prevented. Sure it is, that in May there was great flocking of gentlemen to the city of Bath, upon pretence of using the waters. Persons they were, that had been noted to be hinderers of God's word and gospel. And those meetings were chiefly caused by Bones's disciples and kin, who lived there at Bath. Among these gentlemen, one was called Stradling; another named

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\* Lodge's Illustrations of British History, &c. vol i.

*Jacobine*, an *Italian*, a lame man, (whose abode was most at *Southampton*,) a person suspected to do much hurt. He had daily intelligence both from Flanders and Spain : nor wanted for wealth, nor spared for charges to gain acquaintance for his purpose.”\*



Sir Thomas Lake, secretary of state in the reign of James I. was a native of the parish of St. Michael, in Southampton. It was said of him, with that hyperbolical praise which had been previously applied to Cæsar, that he could write, and dictate, and converse, at the same moment, with greater exactness than most men could attend singly to these various occupations. He was made a secretary of state in 1616. Three years after, he was prosecuted in the Star Chamber by the countess of Exeter, for certain calumnies by which her character had been injured. We have not the particulars of this affair, but there was something about

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\* Strype's Life of Grindal, p. 138, edit. 1710.

*witchcraft* in it; and this may account for its exciting the curiosity of the *royal demonologist*, who was himself present at some of the hearings. Sentence was given against Sir Thomas, but it was some time before he would read in the Star Chamber an acknowledgment of his fault. In extenuation, he pleaded that he had been misled by his credulity and by indulgence to his daughter, who had raised the scandal. In the following year he kissed the king's hand on being restored to favour.\*

His brother, Arthur Lake, bishop of Bath and Wells, in the same reign, was also born at Southampton. He is said to have been an excellent preacher, of extensive reading in divinity, and intimately conversant with the Sacred Writings. His works consist of expositions of several of the Psalms, sermons, and meditations. He was a considerable benefactor to the library of New College, Oxford: where he endowed two lectureships, one of the Hebrew language, and another for the mathematics. Several writers

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\* Camden's Annals of James I.

speak of him as a pattern of every virtue. He was consecrated to the see of Bath and Wells in 1616, and he died in 1626, aged 59.\*



At the latter end of the 16th century, one of the merchants of Southampton drew his quill in a literary undertaking. This was William Goodyear, who translated from the French a spiritual romance, entitled, "The Voyage of the Wandering Knight." It was twice printed in 4to, without date, but about 1600. Of this translation it has been conjectured, with small probability, however, that John Bunyan had read it, and even made considerable use of it, in his *Pilgrim's Progress*.†




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\* Richardson's *Godwin*, p. 391; Granger's *Biog. Hist. of England*, i. 353.

† Jean de Carthein, or Carthenay, author of the French work, was prior of the Carmelites, at Brussels. He died at Cambray, about 1580 or 1588. His work in French was first printed at Antwerp, 1557, 8vo.—*Monthly Magazine* for May, 1801.

Alexander Ross, born at Aberdeen, in Scotland, 1590, was master of the Free Grammar-School, Southampton, from 1616 to 1620; a situation which he appears to have owed to the patronage of the earl of Hertford. He was a man of learning and ingenuity, and the author of a variety of books. It is to the number of his publications, probably, that the sarcastic author of *Hudibras* alludes, when he describes his

“ Ancient sage philosopher,  
That had read Alexander Ross over.”

His *Pansebia*, or a View of all Religions, seems to have had a considerable circulation. In his *Muse's Interpreter*, he has endeavoured to attach a moral or spiritual meaning to the fables of ancient mythology; a taste to which even Lord Bacon had given some encouragement in his *Fables of the Ancients*; and which was carried to the most absurd and revolting lengths by fanciful commentators on the *Sacred Volume*. Of his continuation of Sir Walter Raleigh's *History of the World*, Granger has said, that it is “like a piece of bad Gothic tacked to a magnificent pile of Roman architecture, which

serves to heighten the effect of it, while it exposes its own deficiency in strength and beauty."

To an English translation from the Koran, made from a previous translation from its original Arabic into French, Alexander Ross appended "A needful caveat or admonition for them who desire to know what use may be made of, or if there be danger in reading the Koran." His arguments are directed to obviate the possibilities of mischief's arising from the publication "of this misshapen issue of Mahomet's brain, brought forth by no other midwifery than of a Jew and a Nestorian : which," says he, "I know may be to some dangerous and scandalous ; dangerous to the reader, scandalous to the higher powers. The latter," he adds, "have cleared themselves by disliking the publishing, and questioning the publishers thereof:" and he then proceeds to deliver his opinion as to the danger of such a publication ; justly concluding that the exposure of error must be beneficial to the real interests of truth.

*Trepidant immissio lumine manes.*

"Let us," says he, "with Hercules, pull out this

thieving Cacus from his dark den, where he useth to hide and shelter himself, and expose his deformed carcass to the public view, that we may wonder at it: and, in detecting his errors, we follow the practice of Christ, who discovered to the world the damnable tenets of the scribes, pharisees, hypocrites."

With laborious ingenuity, and a prodigious and almost incredible exercise of memory, he constructed a cento on the life of Christ from the poems of Virgil: composed, as he asserts, before he rose from his bed on winter mornings.\* It bears date 1638, and is dedicated, in a handsome copy of Latin verses, to prince Charles. Ross was one of the king's chaplains. The work extends

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\* "Hem tibi, amice lector, opus antelucanum, à me horis Hyemalibus matutinis nondum stratis egresso decantatum; aurora namque Musis amica, et reliquum diei annique tempus aliis studiis et negotiis impendere soleo."

The title of the book is "Virgilio Evangelisantis Christiados Libri xiii. In quibus omnia quæ de Domino nostro JESU CHRISTO in utroque Testamento vel dicta vel prædicta sunt, altisona Divini Maronis tuba suavissime decantantur. Inflante ALEXANDRO ROSÆO, Aberdonense.

"Arma virumque Maro cecinit, nos acta Deumque;  
Cedant arma Viri, dum loquor acta Dei."



to thirteen books, and comprises more than ten thousand hexameters. The following specimens exhibit the commencement and the close of a work, in which, whatever opinion may be entertained of its merits, none can refuse the author the admiration due to a mind so disciplined in sacred subjects, as to render the execution of his singular project even possible.

“ Ille ego qui quondam gracili modulatus avena  
Carmen, et Ægypto egressus per inhospita saxa  
Perque domos Arabum vacuas et inania regna  
Deduxi Abramidas; at nunc horrentia\* Christi  
Acta, Deumque cano, cœli qui primus ab oris  
Virginis in lætæ gremium descendit et orbem  
Terrarum invisit profugus,† Chananaaque venit  
Littora; multum ille et terra jactatus et alto,‡  
Vi superum,§ sævi memorem Plutonis¶ ob iram;

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\* Horrentia et horrenda apud Virgilium significant veneranda sæpe et timenda.

† Profugus fuit sponte non coacte; pro nobis, non pro se.

‡ Alto, phrasi Hebræa; lacus enim apud eos mare vocatur.

§ Per superos, principes, sacerdotes, scribas, &c. intelligo.

¶ Per Plutonem intelligo Diabolum *κατα την πλεονεξίαν*: divitiarum largitor videri vult, et talis creditur cultoribus suis: vel quia divitiæ è terræ visceribus, haud procul ab ejus regno, eruuntur.

Multa quoque in monte est passus dum conderet urbem.\*  
 Nam ligno incubuit, dixitque novissima verba,  
 Et sacram effudit multo cum sanguine vitam,  
 Atque ausus penetrare sinus nigrantis Averni:  
 Sed tandem patrias victor remeavit ad oras;  
 Evertitque deos Latii, et genus omne Latinum,  
 Albanesque patres atque altæ mœnia Romæ.

“Musa mihi causas memora, quo numine læso,  
 Quidve dolens rex ipse Deûm tot volvere casus  
 Insignem pietate virum, tot adire labores  
 Impulit? an tantas cœli mens ardet in iras?  
 Certe in supremo divumque hominumque satore  
 Nullæ iræ ignescunt, nullus dolor ossibus ardet:  
 Nulla erat in Christo facies scelerisve dolive;  
 Verum omnis fraus nostra fuit, nihil ille nec ausus.  
 Nec potuit patrare nefas; nunquam excidit ore  
 Fraus ulla, aut ulli potuit succumbere culpæ;  
 Unius ob noxam et furias labentis Adami  
 Hæc tulit, infidum nimium dilexit amicum.”

#### “EPILOGUS.

“Hos ego Virgilii modulabar arundine versus,  
 Buccina dum bello signum dat rauca cruentum  
 Cognatas inter gentes; dumque omne tumultu  
 Conjurat trepido Latium, sævitque juvenus,

---

\* Hæc urbs quam Christus condidit est cœlestis Hierusalem,  
 nempe ecclesia.

Arma amens rapiens, nec sat rationis in armis.  
 Carolus interea divisos orbe Britannos  
 Patris ad exemplum (patris namque instar in ipso est)  
 Justitia frænat, ferro et compagibus arctis  
 Occludit belli portas, super arma triumphans,  
 Et super Oceanum; cujus freta lata relucent  
 Fulgure sulphureo, et tonitru trepida unda remugit;  
 Cujus sæpe fragor stagnis auditur avernis.  
 Illi Neptunus domitor maris, omnia jura,  
 Et pelagi imperium cessit, sævumque tridentem.  
 Amplius haud terret Triton freta cærule concha.  
 Mirantur Nymphæ quæ pontum et flumina servant,  
 Mirantur Thetis et Melite, fulgentia longè  
 Scuta virum pelago tantasque innare carinas;  
 Præque metu fugiunt immami corpore pristæ,  
 Dum nostra Oceani classis perlabitur undas,  
 Permissuq; patris Neptuni interrita fertur.  
 Illo Rosæum me tempore dulcis alebat  
 Anglia florentem studiis ignobilis ott.  
 Pierides, vos hunc Christo dicetis honorem,  
 Christo cujus amor tantum mihi crescit in horas,  
 Quantum vere novo viridis se subjicit alaus:  
 Christe, decus cæli, terrarum gloria Christe,  
 Formosi pecoris custes formosior ipse,  
 Ne te pœniteat pecoris, divine Magister!  
 Sis bonus, ô felixque tuis, ne subtrahæ semper  
 Te nostro aspectu, rursus detur ora tueri  
 Christe tua, &c."

One of his latest performances was a translation of Wollebius's Abridgment of Christian Divinity, with additions of his own. A postscript, by the bookseller, to the second edition of this work, written after the decease of Ross, who died in 1654, in his sixty-fourth year, speaks of other labours of this "indefatigable pains-taker," lying "smothered in manuscript."\*

Although his connexion with the school at Southampton had been very brief, he generously remembered its interests in his will by a legacy of fifty pounds.

Granger says that Ross "was so unfortunate as to attack Sir Kenelm Digby, Dr. Hervey, and Sir Thomas Browne, and to disparage their great abilities: which hurt his reputation more than the meanest of his writings could possibly have done."† The work of Browne's which he

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\* The same person adds, with great complacency, as to the correctness of his own typographical labours, "I obliged myself not to print this present book until I should find leisure to attend the press: for it is one thing to print, another to stain paper: one thing to make it fit for a study, another to serve the pastry-cook or retail chandler."

† Granger's Biog. Hist. vol. iii. p. 32.

attacked, was the celebrated treatise called *Religio Medici*, the Religion of a Physician ; a work which was no sooner published than it excited the attention of the public, “by the novelty of paradoxes, the dignity of sentiment, the quick succession of images, the multitude of abstruse allusions, the subtlety of disquisition, and the strength of language.”\* Ross’s answer to this work, written under the title of *Medicus Medicatus*, the Physician healed, is said to have been a heavy performance, which, in common with the severe censures of some German divines, was generally neglected.† That theologians should have taken alarm at some of the fanciful flights of Sir Thomas Browne, is by no means a subject of wonder ; yet his opinions and his practice fairly weighed at the close of a long and an exemplary life, “apparently concur to prove that he was a zealous adherent to the faith of Christ ; that he lived in obedience to his laws, and died in confidence of his mercy.”

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\* Dr. Johnson’s *Life of Sir Thomas Browne*.

† Aikin’s *General Biography*.

In 1640, Mr. Prynne, a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, and Dr. Burton, a divine, being released by the parliament from the imprisonment in Jersey and Guernsey, to which the court of Star Chamber had sentenced them about three years before, landed on the 28th of November at Southampton, and were received and entertained with extraordinary demonstrations of affection and esteem; had their charges borne with great magnificence, and liberal presents given to them. They met with the same treatment throughout their journey to London; and, on approaching the city, such multitudes came out to meet them, that they entered it accompanied by above 10,000 persons, carrying boughs and flowers in their hands, and strewing them in the road as they passed. Compensation was afterwards made to them by parliament for their sufferings.

Their crime was writing scurrilous libels against the bishops; for which they had been fined £5,000 each, their ears had been cut off publicly on a scaffold, and Prynne had been branded on both cheeks with the letters "S. L."

as a seditious libeller. In much the same manner, Bastwick, a physician, had been punished. And though neither of these three men, lord Clarendon observes, were of the most respectable characters ; yet “upon such a public and infamous degradation of the three learned professions to which they belonged, men began no more to consider their manners, but the men ;” and “each profession, with anger and indignation enough, thought their education, and degrees, and quality, would have secured them from such infamous judgments ; and treasured up wrath for the time to come.”

The noble historian considers the triumphant return of these libellers, as a sort of crisis at that period. From this time, says he, “the presses were at liberty for the publishing the most invective, seditious, and scurrilous pamphlets, that their wit and malice could invent. While the ministers of the state and the judges of the law, like men in an extasy, surprised and amazed with several apparitions, had no speech or motion. Whereas, without doubt, if the privy council, or the judges, had assumed the

courage to have questioned the preaching, or the printing, or the seditious riots upon the triumph of those three scandalous men, it had been no hard matter to have destroyed those seeds, which, being neglected, grew up to a full harvest of rebellion and treason.”\*

Prynne appears at least to have been a man of some honest steadiness of principle; and seems to have disliked priestcraft rather than royalty. For a little before the death of Charles I. he had the courage to make a speech to the parliament, to prove the king's concessions to the parliament to be a sufficient ground for peace. Afterward, he continued to speak boldly of abuses, when others thought it prudent to be silent: and “though he had lost his ears for his patriotism, he was determined to be a patriot still, though at the hazard of his head.”† As a writer, he was so voluminous, that it has been computed he must have written on an average a sheet a day from the time of his

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\* Clarendon's Hist. i. 202, &c. edit. 1732.

† Granger's Biog. Hist. of England,



arrival at manhood. He studied with a shade over his eyes, and seldom took a regular dinner, but contented himself with a roll and a draught of ale. He gave his works, in forty volumes folio and quarto, to the Society of Lincoln's Inn.\*

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During the protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, Richard Major, esq. son of one of our aldermen, and possessing the manor of Merdon, now the property of the Heathcote family, at Hursley, was returned to parliament for Southampton. He was afterward appointed of the privy council, was named by the protector an assessor of taxes for Southampton and the Isle of Wight, and had a seat in "the other house."†

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\* The very next year after his release, he published a cumbersome 4to. of above 500 pages, entitled "The Antipathy of the English Lordly Prelacy both to Regal Monarchy and Civil Unity; or, an Historical Collection of the several Execrable Treasons, &c. &c. of our Prelates, against our Kings, Kingdoms, Laws, Liberties, and of the Wars and Civil Dissentions occasioned by them, &c."

† Memoirs of the House of Cromwell, by the Rev. Mark Noble, Rector of Baddesley. Clinter, ii. 430.

His daughter, who married the mild and unoffending Richard Cromwell, appears to have been an amiable woman.—There are some curious letters remaining, from Oliver to Mr. Major.—A few extracts follow :

“I have delivered my sonn up to you, and I hope you will counsell him ; he will neede itt ; and indeed I beleive he likes well what you say, and will be advised by you : I wish he may be serious, the times requier it.”

---

“I pray tell Doll (his daughter in-law) I doe not forgett her nor her little bratt. Shee writes very cuninglye and complementally to mee. I expect a letter of plaine dealinge from her. She is too modest to tell me whether shee breedes or not. I wish a blessing upon her and her husband.”

---

“I heere my sonn hath exceeded his allowance, and is in debt : truly I cannot comend him

therein, wisdom requireinge his livinge within compasse, and calling for it at his handes.”

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In consequence of the act of uniformity, in 1662, two of the parish churches of Southampton were vacated. From St. Michael's was ejected the Rev. Giles Say;\* from All Saints', the Rev. Nathaniel Robinson.† They both suffered imprisonment for nonconformity. Afterwards, Mr. Say left this part of the country, to settle in Norfolk. Mr. Robinson remained in Southampton; and with him originated the separation of the Independent congregation of Dissenters, which has continued ever since. At first, on account of the persecution which then raged, they were under the necessity of assembling when and where they could. Afterwards, some houses

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\* He probably succeeded the Rev. John Toms, who died in 1652, from which time, to the year 1664, the register of St. Michael's is lost. In the vestry-book of St. Lawrence, May 2nd, 1664, is a charge for a sequestration; but the occasion of the vacancy is not mentioned.

† Palmer's Nonconformists' Memorial.

were converted into a place of public worship, in which, as the times would allow, they attended their sabbaths and their monthly sacraments. They held also monthly fasts, at which they constantly made collections for the poor ; thus assisting not only the needy of their own society and neighbourhood, but even occasionally sending help to the persecuted Protestants of France.\*

In 1727, a neat place of worship was erected, which was enlarged in the year 1802, and taken down and substituted by the present building in 1820. The minister at the time of building the place of worship was the Rev.

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\* These, at the latter end of the seventeenth century, experienced sufferings almost unparalleled in the history of the Church, under the *dragooning* system of *conversion*, adopted by his *most Christian Majesty*, Lewis XIV. This persecution was called *dragooning*, on account of the French troopers, soldiers, and dragoons, being let loose on the Protestants, after the revocation of the edict of Nantes, to exercise on unoffending and unprotected men, every species of wrong, indignity, and cruelty, in order to compel them to come within the pale of the Church of Rome. To recount all the ingenious cruelties exercised in the practice of dragooning, by these religious savages, would chill the blood of the most inanimate.—See Claude's Cries of the suffering Protestants in France.

Henry Francis, a learned and amiable man, the fellow-student of Secker, (who afterwards conforming to the Church of England, became archbishop of Canterbury;) of Dr. Hort, archbishop of Tuam; of the learned Dr. Chandler; and of the eminent Joseph Butler, afterward bishop of Durham. Rarely has such a cluster of eminent men been formed under the instruction of an individual: their tutor was Mr. Jones, a dissenting minister, of Tewkesbury. It is a remarkable circumstance, that, in a period of 140 years, this society had no more than five ministers.

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One of the ancient parish clerks of Holy Rood church, by trade a cutler, had, it seems, a talent for rhyming; which appears to have been exercised in satirical composition. He drew upon himself, however, by the sharpness of his wit, the literary vengeance of "a person of quality;" whose poem on the unfortunate cutler enjoyed a long run of popularity. We cannot date the period when this curious work first appeared; but

a fourth edition was printed in 1694; and even an eighth, so lately as 1764. The pamphlet is entitled "Batt upon Batt; a Poem on the Parts, Patience, and Pains of Bartholomew Kempster, Clerk, Poet, and Cutler, of Holy Rood Parish, in Southampton. By a Person of Quality."—The reader will be entertained by an extract or two:—

"Ingenious Batt! by trade and nature fit  
To set an edge both on our knives and wit.  
Vulcan, they say, made mighty arms for Mars,  
(Cuckolds are kind,) but he ne'er made a verse.  
Apollo, he made verses, but in's life  
I never heard that e'er he made a knife.  
Now Batt does all that both these gods could do,  
Hammers out verses and hard iron too:  
He is a two-faced pump, whose spouts do run  
Smith's water one way, t'other Helicon;  
He writes and works so equally, you'd think  
One cheek were black'd with smoke, t'other with ink."

The piece abounds with such conceits as were in fashion at the time it was probably written; some of them not very delicate.

Towards the conclusion, the author touches on the "ancient and present state and glory of Southampton."—This part contains some hints respecting our ancient manners :—

"Hampton, O Hampton, in the days of yore,  
The lawful pride of all the southern shore;  
With all advantages of nature graced,  
Betwixt the arms of fair Antona placed;  
Guarded by forests both on land and sea,  
From storms, and man the ruder enemy;  
By Neptune and his Argonauts carest,  
And all that were in black tarpaulin drest;  
Admired for beauty, but for riches more;  
For nothing can be handsome, that is poor:  
Fertile in men of valour and loud fame,  
In knights and giants, as thy gates proclaim,  
And gentle poets, without whom those wights  
Had got but little honour by their flights.  
Upon thy banks famed Sternhold did compose\*  
Those two last staves which Batt so oft doth nose.

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\* A note in the poem makes Southampton the birth-place of Sternhold. Perhaps there was a tradition to this purpose; as there is no certain account where he was born.—See Companion in a Tour round Southampton, p. 186, fourth edit.—Thomas Sternhold studied at Oxford; but leaving that university without a degree, repaired to the court of Henry VIII. who made him groom of the robes, and, at his death, bequeathed to him

Batt to thy altars too, sweet music brings,  
And makes as learned anthems as he sings.

Here once each tradesman could both work and write ;  
As cobblers whistle at it, they'd indite.  
Invention was so pregnant, that oft times  
Men would talk poetry, that could not rhymes.  
Poems were pasted up in every hall,\*  
As thick and thin as cobwebs on the wall.

100 marks. He enjoyed the same office under Edward VI., and was in some esteem at court, on account of his being thought a poet. Being a zealous reformer, and extremely strict in his morals, he was so offended at the obscene songs used there, that from pious and laudable motives he ~~tuned~~ <sup>translated</sup> into English metre fifty-one of David's Psalms, and caused them to be set to music, vainly flattering himself that the courtiers would sing them, instead of their loose and wanton sonnets. However, the verse and the music being thought admirable, they were gradually introduced into all parish churches. It does not appear that Sternhold made any other verses; and this specimen gives us no room to lament that he did not. He died in London, in 1549.—Brookes and Collyer's Dictionary.

\* The author's note on this place is, "Formerly every house had several rhymes in it."—He does not mention any but such as were either *written* or *printed*, and consequently *stuck* on the wall. A few years ago, in repairing an apartment in High-street, the owner discovered the following distich *engraved* in the wall, near the chimney:—

"As heate of fyre the colde out driues,  
So by repentannce amende youre lyues."



Here you might view Haman in all his pride,  
 Used like a rogue, hang'd and then dittified :  
 Or the two elders, poets in their time,  
 Tempting Susannah in Battoick rhyme.  
 Each kitchen, parlour, chamber, were all drest here  
 With Sampson, Joseph, Daniel, or queen Esther.  
 No room was thought well furnished for converse,  
 Till hung with buckram paint, and buckram verse :  
 Nay, I have seen a ballad full of wit  
 Torn down to singe a goose upon the spit.

“ Blest town ! where did the gods e'er grant before  
 That men might all be poets, and not poor !  
 A happiness, ne'er in Parnassus known :  
 Nor couldst thou, Hampton ! call it long thy own :  
 For age, who, like a bloodhound, glory traces,  
 And destroys towns as well as handsome faces,  
 Hath made thee poor and dull, like other places. }  
 Imp'd with swift wings thy beauty's fled away,  
 The very ruins of thy pride decay.  
 Thy gates are moulder'd, the portcullis showth  
 Like rotten teeth in an old woman's mouth.  
 Walls, forts, and towers, into their trenches slide ;  
 The castle looks like a nose Frenchified.

“ Whither are all thy winged lovers flown,  
 The mighty carracks, and the great galleon,  
 With all that numerous train which did resort  
 In marine coaches to thy crowded port ?

They cease their courtship now, and only own  
Thou hast been once a rich and handsome town.

“Nothing of wit or poetry remains  
But threadbare coats, no money, and crack’d brains.  
The merry fiddlers\* long since left the town,  
And now of late the gallows is broke down ;  
Which, by the ancient charter, still did use  
To furnish matter for the tragic muse.  
No wonder then if poetry decay,  
When such encouragements are taken away.”



The rhyming faculty, not altogether free  
from the burlesque and satirical vein, lately  
claimed some connexion with the same official  
department in the parish of Holy Rood: the  
celebrated Dibdin was the son of one of our  
ancient rhymers’s successors.



Southampton had the honour of being the  
birth-place of the learned and amiable Dr.  
Watts; a man whose character drew from the

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\* “There was formerly music for the mayor and town.”

great biographer of the English poets a larger measure of unqualified commendation than he has bestowed on any of those whose lives his elegant pen has illustrated.

Isaac Watts was born July 17th, 1674. His father kept a school in the town: he was a man of exemplary piety, but by principle attached to the Protestant Dissenters, on which account he more than once suffered imprisonment. During his confinement, his wife has been known to sit on a stone near the prison door, suckling her son Isaac; who was the eldest of nine children.

It would be foreign to the design of the present work, to enter into the detail of his life; which has been so amply done by Dr. Gibbons, and with such instructive conciseness by Dr. Johnson.

He was fond of books from his infancy, and he began to learn Latin when only four years old, probably at home. He was next taught Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, by the Rev. Mr. Pinborne, master of the free grammar-school; to whom the gratitude of his scholar afterward inscribed a Latin ode.

His proficiency at school was so conspicuous, that a subscription was proposed for his support at the university ; but he declared his resolution to take his lot with the dissenters. "Such he was," (Dr. Johnson adds,) "as every Christian church would rejoice to have adopted."

He therefore repaired, in 1690, to an academy taught by Mr. Rowe, where he had for his fellow-students, Mr. Hughes, the poet, and Dr. Hort, afterward archbishop of Tuam.

At the age of twenty he left the academy, and spent two years in study and devotion at the house of his father. He was then entertained five years by Sir John Hartopp, as domestic tutor to his son. In the twenty-fourth year of his age, he became assistant to Dr. Chauncey, and three years after succeeded to the doctor's charge in London. Being seized by dangerous and debilitating illness, his congregation procured him an assistant. His health then returned gradually ; but, in 1712, he was seized with a fever of such violence and continuance, that from the feebleness which it brought on him he never perfectly recovered.

This calamitous state drew upon him the attention of Sir Thomas Abney, who received him into his house; where, with a constancy of friendship and uniformity of conduct not often to be found, he was treated for thirty-six years with all the kindness that friendship could prompt, and all the attention that respect could dictate. From the time of his reception into this family, his life was no otherwise diversified than by successive publications.

When at length disabled by age from fulfilling his public duty, he offered to remit the salary appendant to it; but his congregation would not accept the resignation. Worn gradually away, without pain, he expired November 25th, 1748, in the seventy-fifth year of his age.

That he was highly esteemed by his contemporaries, though of a different communion, appears from the list of his correspondents; among whom are the names of archbishop Secker, bishop Gibson, Dr. Hort, the countess of Hertford, and lord Barrington.

**“ Few men have left behind such purity of character, or such monuments of laborious piety. He has provided instruction for all ages; from those who are lisping their first lessons, to the enlightened readers of Malbranche and Locke; he has left neither corporeal nor spiritual nature unexamined; he has taught the art of reasoning, and the science of the stars.**

**“ Every man, acquainted with the common principles of human action, will look with veneration on the writer, who is at one time combating Locke, and at another making a catechism for children in their fourth year. A voluntary descent from the dignity of science, is, perhaps, the hardest lesson that humility can teach.**

**“ His character, therefore, must be formed from the multiplicity and diversity of his attainments, rather than from any single performance: for it would not be safe to claim for him the highest rank in any single denomination of literary dignity; yet, perhaps, there**

was nothing in which he would not have excelled, if he had not divided his powers to different pursuits.\*



In the popish rebellion of 1745, the Rev. William Budworth was minister of St. Michael's parish. He published a sermon occasioned by the posture of public affairs; in which, with considerable animation, he warns his countrymen against the machinations of the friends of the Pretender.



Southampton being a county of itself, a procession round the boundaries is occasionally made (till lately the ceremony was annual) by the sheriff, court-leet, and as many of the house-keepers as choose to attend: all of them are summoned, and a fine of one penny is demanded

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\* Dr. Johnson's Lives of the Poets, vol. iv.

on their refusal.—This cavalcade, which has obtained the popular name of *cut-thorn*, from the season when it takes place, sets out on the morning of the second Tuesday after Easter Tuesday, from the Bar-Gate, and after having made a complete compass of the county, re-enters the town at the bridewell gate. At the various boundary marks on the road, several ludicrous ceremonies are performed by those who have never before attended the procession. In the course of their circuit, refreshment is provided for them in a tent, erected on the common; and the day frequently terminates with greater credit to the hospitality of the sheriff, than to the moderation of his guests.

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The opening of Chapel fair is another of the annual ceremonies of Southampton. This is performed on the Saturday noon preceding Trinity Monday. The mayor erects a pole with a large glove fixed to it, at the lower end of Chapel lane; and the senior bailiff then



takes possession of the fair, as chief magistrate in its precinct for the time, and invites the corporation to take refreshments in his marquee. During the fair no person can be arrested in the town; or in going to, or returning from, the fair, if it can be clearly ascertained that business was his errand. A guard of halberdiers is appointed, who keep the peace by day, and watch the fair by night. On the Wednesday, at noon, the mayor dissolves the fair, by ordering the pole and glove to be taken down.\*



At particular times of the year, the court-leet, under the sheriff, assisted by the senior bailiff, perform their rounds, and take cognizance of, and present nuisances and encroachments, examine weights and measures, visit the free grammar-school, &c.

It was long an established custom in Southampton market, to make the pound consist of

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\* See Walk through Southampton, p. 76.

eighteen ounces. Several dairymen finding it inimical to their profits to continue the custom, obtained a verdict at law against it.

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Around the town are several common fields, into which the inhabitants paying scot and lot have a right to send their cattle. That called *the Marsh*, is free at all times; as is also the beautiful and extensive piece of land, north of the town, called *the Common*. The several pieces, called the *Porter's Mead*, *Houndwell*, *East* and *West Magdalens*,\* and *Hoglands*, are private property half the year, but in the autumn and winter are free for cattle.

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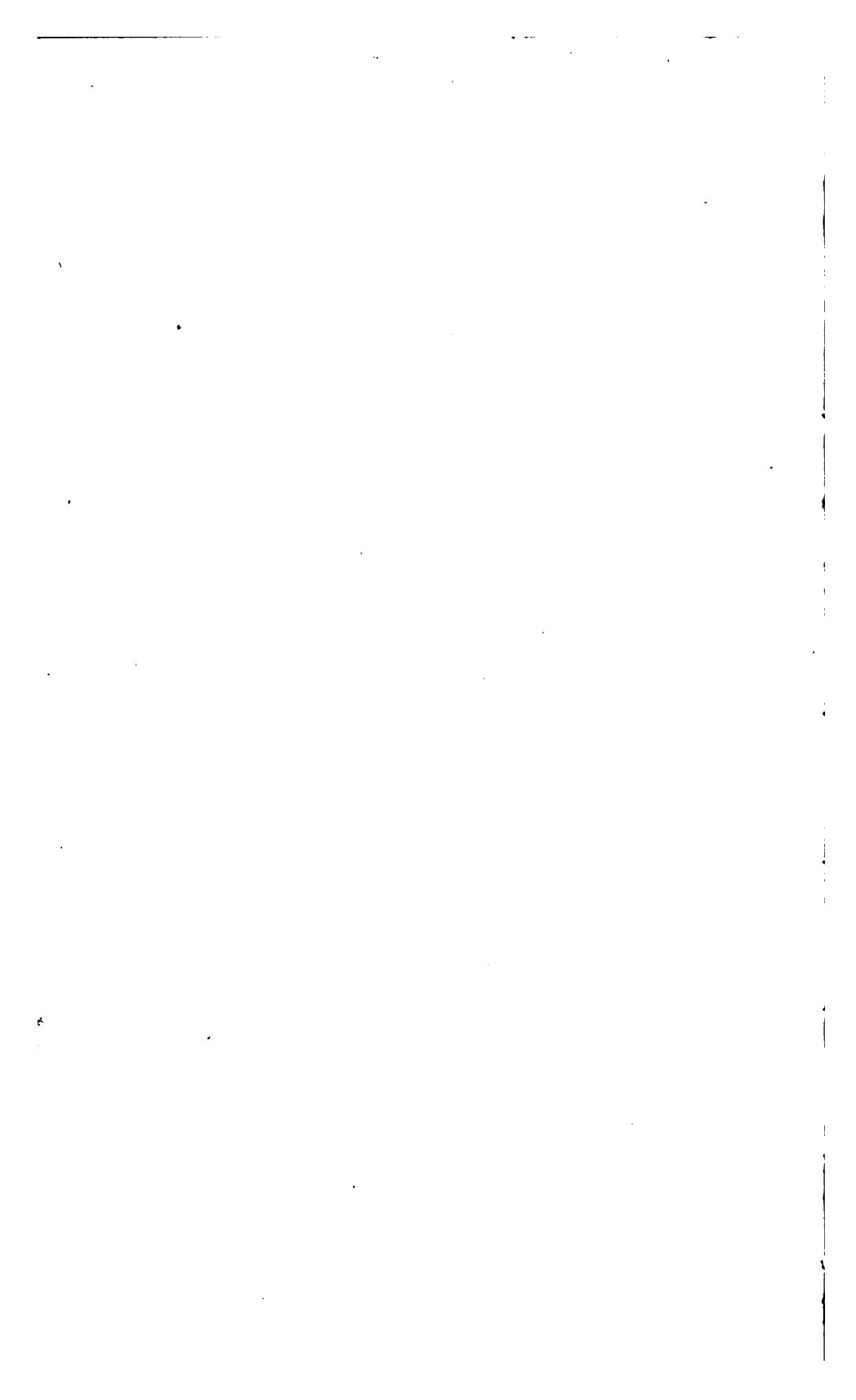


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\* The broad Hampshire pronunciation has gradually metamorphosed this name into *Marlands*. Magdalen Hill, near Winchester, has shared a similar fate. In its case, the process seems to have been from *Magdalen* to *Maudlin*, and from *Maudlin* to *Marnan Hill*.

At the neighbouring village of Itchen ferry, the residence of the fishermen who supply Southampton market, there was recently a remain of one of the ancient popish processions. On the festival of St. Peter, (to whose appropriate patronage this fishing village was probably commended,) the inhabitants were accustomed to carry about an image of the saint, with certain ceremonies ; and the day was spent as a holyday.

THE END.



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